

To: Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

Re: *Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013*

From: Dr David van Gend, Queensland secretary, *World Federation of Doctors who Respect Human Life*

April 24th 2013.

Dear Senators,

I write in support of Senator John Madigan's Bill. He has brought to public attention an abhorrent provision in the public subsidising of medical procedures.

Who amongst us will defend the use of public money to terminate the life of an unborn baby girl *on the grounds that she is a girl?*

That is pure misogyny.

Which hard-line feminist will defend the right of a woman to control "her body" where that means seeking out and destroying another body *because* that body is female?

That is utter hypocrisy.

By passing this Bill you will be righting a wrong within a much greater wrong, and drawing a line in the public mind. Passing this Bill will teach new Australians whose culture turns a blind eye to female feticide that this practice, along with others like female genital mutilation, must be left at the arrival lounge if they want to live in a land of equality and non-violence.

If such people respond by pointing out that jurisdictions like Victoria allow the cruel killing of unborn babies for any reason or none, whether male or female, even entirely healthy babies older than those in our hospital nurseries; and if they ask how it can be worse for their culture to abort unborn babies where there *is* a clear reason (being female) – they will have exposed our own culture's hypocrisy and violence. That, too, will be a worthwhile outcome of Senator Madigan's Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David van Gend