
To the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees,

I write to express grave concerns with the proposed "**Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013**".

I believe it is unacceptable to use Medicare funding for the purpose of gender selection abortions.

Whilst parents may prefer a male or a female child, this preference cannot be a basis for terminating a baby's life - a child's sex, over which they have no control, cannot be a factor in determining their desirability. Such arbitrary reasons for rejecting the intrinsic value of a person cannot be condoned - it is in the same field as eye colour and hair colour, which parents may also feel are undesirable. Allowing the Amendment simply shows the government's erroneous agreement that it is right to discriminate unfairly based on such characteristics.

Allowing gender-selection abortions, in order for 'family-balancing' undermines and attacks the unconditional love that parents ought to have for their children. What would it do to a child's sense of self to know they're only loved because they're a boy or because they're a girl, and that if it were the other way around they would have been aborted?

Australia, as a leading country, ought not fly in the face of the various campaigns world-wide seeking to end this discriminatory practise. It is a practise that can only be further abused - we see in China the preference for male-children, due to the economic benefits of a male child, and the further abuses rampant in the society - sex-trafficking and sexual abuse of the minority of the population ie. females, as a response to the increasing male population. If a similar trend begins in Australia, the government will need to take further invasive steps to curb the trend and unnaturally enforce a balance in the sexes.

The medicare funding cannot be allowed and the government cannot condone unfair discrimination based on gender. It is an abuse of the family and the unconditional love that families ought to experience.

Thank you,

Patrick Long