

Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013.

23 April 2013

Dear Committee Members

Herein, I register my support for Sen John Madigan's proposal to restrict medicare funding for abortions performed solely based on the gender of the unborn child.

I, along with the people I have discussed this bill with, am opposed to tax payers money being used to fund gender selection abortions. Many ethnic groups within Australia are known for gender selective practices and currently people can access Medicare to fund their abortions regardless of the reason for the abortion. Some groups state that we cannot make changes to abortion laws in Australia because of a lack of statistical evidence as the Medicare number for abortion is also used for D&Cs in the case of miscarriage or endometriosis and other medical conditions. If this is the case I would recommend that abortion be given it's own Medicare number so proper statistics can be collected and used when discussing these important matters.

Implementing disincentives for gender-selection abortions in our country would also show our support for UN campaigns to end this practice worldwide. Medical associations in Canada, USA and the UK have expressed concern that gender-selection abortion is occurring in their countries, particularly amongst certain ethnic groups that reside in each of these first world countries.

Kylie Anderson