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To Whom it may Concern:

My name is Gretchen Wittenmyer, and I would like to address the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013. The sole purpose of government is to restrain evil, whether natural (e.g., bush fires, cyclones, disease) or moral (e.g., murder, abuse, theft). I am concerned that the Australian government has been funding moral evil in the form of abortions.

In rare cases, the pre-birth death of a child is necessary to save the life of a mother. For example, if a woman has an ectopic pregnancy and neither she nor the baby could survive it, an abortion may be called for. Or if a woman develops eclampsia before the baby is viable, doctors may have to remove the baby (I have a friend who nearly died at 20 weeks of pregnancy and only survived because her baby was removed by emergency Caesar). In those cases, it would be legitimate for Medicare to fund an abortion.

Most abortions, however, are done for convenience rather than for saving a life. One of the most heinous excuses for taking a baby's life is gender-selection. The Australian government would not condone - much less pay for - the massacre of its citizens because someone preferred males over females, or vice versa. It is your duty to protect the rights of every man, woman, and child in Australia, regardless of age, gender, religion, or social status. And their fundamental right is the right to live.

Please remove Medicare funding for all abortions that do not directly save the life of the mother... especially gender-selective abortions.

You may make my submission and name public. I am not ashamed to use my voice in defense of babies who have not yet learned to use theirs.

Gretchen Wittenmyer