

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

I would like to express my strong support for the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013.

I believe that abortion for the purpose of gender selection, or so-called 'family balancing', is appalling and should be illegal in Australia. Abortion on the basis of gender selection is not a medical procedure, and therefore should not receive Medicare funding. Australian taxpayers should not have to fund abortions on the basis of personal or cultural preference.

Gender selection with preference for a male child is prevalent among some cultures around the world, and abortion on the basis of gender selection has contributed to a lack of females in some countries. The United Nations states that "this commodification and objectification of women as the 'disposable gender' has created an increase in violence, sex-trafficking and child abduction."

Australia should show support for campaigns by United Nations agencies to end the discriminatory practice of gender selection. The government should be doing all it can to reduce the number of abortions in our country, especially those for the purpose of gender selection. Unborn children should not be killed for being the 'wrong' gender. To allow Medicare funding for abortions on the basis of gender selection would be tantamount to our government condoning gendercide.

Australian law should protect those most vulnerable in our society, including the unborn. Every unborn child should be afforded the most basic human right: that of life, regardless of gender.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tamarin Marchant