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To: Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

Last month, Senator John Madigan introduced into the Senate the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill, and I understand that the Bill is now in the Committee stage and before the Hon Senators of this Committee.

I am writing in support of the Bill which seeks to remove Medicare funding for sex-selection abortions.

I am opposed to abortion in any form, based upon my Christian view of life as being inherently valuable, and worthy of the maximum protection possible. I recognise that not all in Australia will share my philosophical viewpoint.

However, I wish to point out that the idea of sex-selective abortion (abhorrent as it is) was warned against in the early debates over the de-criminalisation of abortion, during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

All those who favoured changing the law at that time, assured the community that the strictest safeguards would be in place to prevent such things occurring, and restrict abortions to only medically necessary, life-threatening, circumstances.

It has taken a mere 40 years to unravel the high ideals and to reach a situation where abortions are performed for reasons completely unrelated to medical necessity.

Aborting an unborn child solely on the basis of gender preference is a lifestyle and cultural decision, one of those unrelated to any question of medical necessity. It should therefore not be afforded any Medicare assistance.

I therefore urge all Senators, members of the Committee to bend all their efforts to ensuring the passage of the Bill, and assisting Members in the other place to do the same.

John M Angelico