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Dear Sir,

Please find below my submission concerning the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013.

This is an extremely important bill for Australia and I urge you to consider it carefully and support its passage through the Parliament.

Over a quarter of children conceived in Australia are killed by abortion. This is a tragedy for the individuals involved and for Australia as a whole. How many of these are killed for the purposes of sex-selection is unknown, as are how many of these abortions use Medicare funding, because this data has never been collected.

There are strong reasons to believe, however, that sex-selection abortions are higher than in comparable first-world countries and that Medicare funding is used proportionally more for these type of abortions than abortions in general.

Because of its proximity to Asia, Australia is home to proportionally more Asian immigrants than comparable countries. It is also clear from the extremely skewed sex at birth rates that sex-selection is widely practised in Asia ([http://www.unfpa.org/gender/docs/studies/summaries/regional\\_analysis.pdf](http://www.unfpa.org/gender/docs/studies/summaries/regional_analysis.pdf)). Furthermore these practices are being introduced by Asian immigrants into first-world nations (<http://www.examiner.com/article/sex-selection-abortion-rampant-america>) so can we really expect Australia to be any different?

It is also very likely that Medicare funding is used disproportionately in these cases because immigrants typically make up the poorer sections of a community.

I therefore call on the committee to support Senator Madigan's bill and hence begin to stop government complicity in this tragedy.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Alan Alford