

I fully have a high regard for and thank Senator John Madigan for preparing a bill to remove federal funding for sex selection abortions. Why should it be a crime to be a girl?! To have the gender that a wise God rightly assigned to you? Humans are not factory objects - they come as they are and we have no right to interfere and engineer things to our greatest selfish interests. Such a discriminatory crime as sex selection abortion should be absolutely unthinkable and even abhorrent to any reasonable person.

1. The unacceptability to Australians of the use of Medicare funding for the purpose of gender selection abortions;

It is unacceptable that unborn children are being killed because they are the wrong sex. Also the fact that it is funded by our tax dollars through Medicare in Australia is horrifying to me. We should not be viewing our children as accessories. You don't pick the gender to fit your lifestyle. It's heartbreaking to me that there are some parents that would even consider having an abortion due to the sex of the baby in the first place. What a depressing world it has become. Aborting a child solely because of their gender is **NOT** a medical procedure and should not receive a Medicare benefit.

What has happened to the days when people simply had to wait until a baby was born to determine what the child's sex was. Now pregnant women can have a scan at 7 weeks to find out the sex of the baby.

We all need to be happy with what God has given us, instead of thinking how badly you want a boy or girl think about couples who can't conceive at all.

2. The prevalence of gender selection - with preference for a male child - amongst some ethnic groups present in Australia and the recourse to Medicare funded abortions to terminate female children;

We have known for some decades now that in a number of countries, notably China and India, sex-selection abortions have been taking place at an alarming rate.

<sup>1</sup>Every year in India and China, more baby girls are killed by abortion and infanticide than are born in the United States. According to a documentary called *It's a Girl*, shown at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York in 2012, the U.N. has estimated that 200 million girls are missing worldwide due to sex-selective abortion and infanticide.

Reggie Littlejohn, a litigation lawyer who founded the California-based Women's Rights Without Frontiers (WRWF), addressed the U.N. commission, whose theme was violence against women and girls, and showed the award-winning documentary to highlight "gendercide"— the systemic and deliberate killing of baby girls in cultures that favour males.

The film focuses on Asia, and, in one of the most chilling scenes in its trailer, a smiling Indian woman describes how she would “just strangle [a baby girl] as soon as it was born.” She takes the film crew to a burial mound beside a field where she laughs, while explaining that, “since we were not having any male children, I killed eight girl children.”

Littlejohn’s focus is China, where the Ministry of Health reported this month that more than 336 million abortions have been carried out since the country instituted its controversial one-child policy. Well over half of those abortions have been carried out on baby girls because of a preference for baby boys, and China’s children now have the most skewed sex ratio in the world.

In 2009, the British Medical Journal published a study of China’s national intercensus data from a 2005 survey (the most recent detailed data available) and found a high sex ratio across all areas, with 126 baby boys born for every 100 baby girls under age 4 in rural areas. Six provinces had sex ratios greater than 130 for first births to mothers; for second births, the ratio was higher than 160 in nine provinces (in rural areas of China, a second child generally has been allowed five years after the first child’s birth, but in some areas this is permitted only when the firstborn baby was a girl).

Virtually this entire sex imbalance is attributed to sex-selective abortion, according to the study, although infanticide of baby girls is well documented as well.

In India, too, the government’s de facto two-child policy is an undercurrent for gendercide. One study, published in *The Lancet*, found that as many as 12 million baby girls have been aborted in the past three decades because of their sex. Another study, published in 2011 by Global Public Health, found women are pressured into the government’s sterilization camps after the birth of a son.

This practice should not be supported in Australia by Medicare benefits.

3. The use of Medicare funded gender-selection abortions for the purpose of ‘family-balancing; and
4. Support for campaigns by United Nations agencies to end the discriminatory practice of gender-selection through implementing disincentives for gender-selection abortions’;

Medicare funding should be strictly limited to health procedures; taxpayers should not be funding decisions based purely on cultural or personal preference. It is the duty of legislators to ensure every child, regardless of gender, is afforded the basic human right of life. By allowing such practices to be funded by Medicare, the Government is essentially endorsing the practice of sex-selection - an action which is in direct contradiction to the work UN agencies do to stop gender selection practices.

We are aware that sex selective abortion is happening in Australia; <sup>2</sup> just two years ago a married couple who aborted twin boys the wife was expecting after IVF treatment, have gone to court to choose the sex of their next child - because they want a girl. The husband and wife already have three sons and said they now want to have a girl after their baby daughter died soon after birth. The couple said they had made the decision to terminate the twin boys but could not continue to have unlimited numbers of children.

Also in the article Professor Gab Kovacs said: ‘I can’t see how it could possibly harm anyone. ‘Laws should be made to protect people from things that are going to damage them. ‘Why should we make this illegal? ‘Who is this going to harm if this couple have their desire fulfilled?’ Do I need to say how absurd that sounds coming from an intelligent Professor? Of course it’s hurting someone, the unborn baby or in their case it hurt the twin boys that got aborted.

This is just an example of playing God, let’s be thankful with what God has given us and not make up our own rules as we go along.

5. Concern from medical associations in first world countries about the practice of gender-selection abortion, viz. Canada, USA, UK.

In this article<sup>3</sup> it states that a UK health minister said that these differences in rates of male and female births among mothers of certain nationalities may “fall outside the range considered possible without intervention”. This forms the first official statistical evidence potentially backing up concerns that sex-selection abortions are being carried out in Britain.

In addition to this Andrew Lansley, the former health secretary, last year criticised the “illegal and morally wrong” practice following a Daily Telegraph investigation into the issue. After this newspaper received information that the procedures were becoming increasingly common for cultural and social reasons, undercover reporters filmed doctors offering women terminations based on gender. As a result of the investigation, the Crown Prosecution Service is considering criminal charges against doctors in three cases.

As described in part two of this submission, the practice of aborting unborn babies on the basis of sex has long been considered a problem in areas of India and China, where boys are sometimes considered favourable for cultural or economic reasons.

So we need to acknowledge that it’s not just a problem worldwide but also in Australia.

We need to follow countries like Ireland, Malta and the Philippines, where gender selection abortion is still illegal.

**“Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching the people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.”**

## **Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta**

Senator Madigan’s Bill has my wholehearted support.

It is the duty of legislators to ensure every child, regardless of gender, is afforded the basic human right of life. The law should protect the unborn given their vulnerable state, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. By providing Medicare funding of sex-selection abortions, the government is contributing to the increase of this abhorrent act; the government must work to ensure a reduction in abortion.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Dilorenzo

## References

1. Read more at this link; [http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/the-ugliest-form-of-misogyny-sex-selective-abortions-and-the-war-on-baby-gi?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+NCRRegisterDailyBlog+National+Catholic+Register#ixzz2QFMUvpTe](http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/the-ugliest-form-of-misogyny-sex-selective-abortions-and-the-war-on-baby-gi?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+NCRRegisterDailyBlog+National+Catholic+Register#ixzz2QFMUvpTe)
2. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1345057/Couple-sons-abort-twin-boys-IVF--try-baby-girl-daughter-died.html>
3. [http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/9794577/The-abortion-of-unwanted-girls-taking-place-in-the-UK.html#mm\\_hash](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/9794577/The-abortion-of-unwanted-girls-taking-place-in-the-UK.html#mm_hash)