
To the members of the Honourable Senate,

I would voice my support for the **HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT (MEDICARE FUNDING FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF ABORTION) BILL 2013** introduced by Victorian DLP Senator John Madigan.

Even if abortion was not intrinsically wrong, Australia should be known worldwide as a leader in defending the rights of the unborn. Below, in an article by Nicholas Eberstadt we can see only a fraction of the devastation wrought by this horrific act.

"Writing in a recent issue of *The New Atlantis*, American demographics expert Nicholas Eberstadt had a very chilling tale to tell about where this is all headed. In 'The Global War Against Baby Girls,' he tells of how almost overwhelmingly, sex-selection abortions are done on females, not males.

"His article begins as follows: 'Over the past three decades the world has come to witness an ominous and entirely new form of gender discrimination: sex-selective feticide, implemented through the practice of surgical abortion with the assistance of information gained through prenatal gender determination technology. All around the world, the victims of this new practice are overwhelmingly female — in fact, almost universally female.

"The practice has become so ruthlessly routine in many contemporary societies that it has impacted their very population structures, warping the balance between male and female births and consequently skewing the sex ratios for the rising generation toward a biologically unnatural excess of males. This still-growing international predilection for sex-selective abortion is by now evident in the demographic contours of dozens of countries around the globe — and it is sufficiently severe that it has come to alter the overall sex ratio at birth of the entire planet, resulting in millions upon millions of new "missing baby girls" each year. In terms of its sheer toll in human numbers, sex-selective abortion has assumed a scale tantamount to a global war against baby girls'."

Places like China and India already have huge problems because of sex-selection abortion, infanticide and the like. We do not need to see replicated here those same problems. The simple truth is this: killing an unborn baby is always wrong, but it certainly is wrong simply because some adults want a child of a particular sex.

This is treating children as a mere commodity, and it has no place in a civilised society. If you want a red sports car rather than a silver one, fine. If you prefer chocolate ice cream over vanilla, fine. If you like only classical music CDs as opposed to punk rock, fine.

Choice is fine in all those areas. But it is not fine when it comes to unborn babies. They are the ones who deserve choice. What about their fundamental right to life? The idea of killing a baby simply because he or she is not the gender the parents prefer is simply horrific and barbaric."

Our children are our most precious resource and hope for the future not a commodity to be traded. I urge the senate to support the bill for the sake of those who cannot speak for themselves.

Sincerely Pauline Hayes