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To whom it may concern on the Senate Committee;

My name is Simone Frankel, I am a 32 year old Australian woman from Queensland. I write to you for the Removal of Medicare funding for Gender Selection Abortions. I personally am a woman and a tax payer, when I see measures of such fund reduction to cost cut right across the board at a Federal and State Level (for vital government services such as health, emergency services, child safety and education) , I think that it is absurd to consider making Gender Selection Abortions a cost which is reimbursed or covered by Medicare and therefore to go further to say that it also should not be covered by Health Insurance Providers either. This is because of not only but including the following reasons:

- Aborting an unborn child solely on the basis of gender is not a medical procedure and should therefore not be afforded Medicare benefits
- 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
- 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, is contributing to the increase of this abhorrent act; the government should work to see a reduction in abortion.

Finally, we (as a general population here in Australia) shake our heads in shame at other countries and cultures who allow their people to perform (legislatively or otherwise) practices of child mutilation, child sex exploitation, child slavery in syndicates, child sacrifice and the killing of babies based on gender (as per the one child rule), this is rightfully so, how then can we support such atrocities as Gender Selection Abortion to occur, by supporting it with legislative measures and even funding the occurrence of these atrocities? When is it right to kill a baby? Even Child Safety here in Queensland (legislatively and otherwise) recognises an unborn child (still in utero's) right to safety and need of protection.

To bury our heads in the sand on this issue and deny the severity of it, is failing our moral obligation as citizens to protect these children. To allow it, would truly be a disgraceful shame. I understand that society in general may have differing opinions on this issue however I can not stand by and watch legislation passed in my country which would bring great shame to our nation. Abortions in general are carried out far to often in this (and other countries) country, this is facilitated by our government picking up the tab with Medicare.

For an unjustified and unnecessary reason such as Gender Selection, I can not condone my support of any such funding by the use of my tax dollars to (directly or indirectly through our Medicare system) pay for such an indecent and criminal act. It's not just immoral, but a clear breach of the UN Convention on the rights of the child.

I would wholeheartedly support increased funding to be directed into the adoption bodies throughout Australia, making it easier for couples who can not

have children to adopt babies of any gender into their homes, to provide them with a safe, loving, caring and supportive environment. There is far too much red tape on adoption preventing good people from becoming parents or making it a nightmare (process) for these people who would make great parents to be able to adopt a child. When the abortion rate is so high in our country, why are we not as a society encouraging (by facilitating) alternatives.

Another suggestion would be to increase funding to Child Safety Regulatory bodies etc.

Sincerely

Simone Frankel