

Ross McPhee

April 11, 2013

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senators,

I support the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013 for the following reasons:

1. As a taxpayer I gladly pay the Medicare levy. All Australians should have access to medical services, regardless of their ability to pay and geographical location. Having said that, I strongly feel that it is unjust that a portion of Medicare funding may be being used for sex selective abortion.
2. Terminating a pregnancy simply because the baby is not the gender the parents want, for cultural or other reasons, should not be considered to be a medical procedure, and should therefore not be funded under Medicare.
3. The practice of sex selective abortion is widespread in China and India this has led to a massive shortage of girls. Research published in 2007 by the United Nations<sup>1</sup> revealed that as many as 200 million girls are missing in the world today. Gender selected abortion has been the major contributor to this figure. This practice should not be supported in Australia by Medicare benefits.
4. Senator John Madigan (DLP, Victoria) has reported that doctors have disclosed informally that gender selection abortions are already occurring,<sup>2</sup> with a preference for a male child, amongst some ethnic groups present in Australia and as a result Medicare funding is being used to terminate the life of female children. This should not be permitted.

Thank you for accepting my submission and considering my views.

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<sup>1</sup> International Women's Day 2007, United Nations, New York, accessed April 11, 2013

<http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007/factsfigures.shtml>

<sup>2</sup> Taylor, L. 2013, "Bill to oppose funds for gender-based abortion." *The Age*, 27 February, viewed April 11, 2013 <http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/political-news/bill-to-oppose-funds-for-genderbased-abortion-20130226-2f463.html>

Yours sincerely

Ross McPhee