

Dear Sirs,

This email is to strongly request that you treat this Bill with the scorn it so richly deserves and REJECT IT! Why in Australia do we even have such things coming before Parliament ??? A Bill which seeks to implement Guilty until proven Innocent (Clause 124), and without the right to legal representation! What a travesty. On this ground of destroying Natural Justice alone it should be dismissed without hesitation. But it goes way further. It further seeks also to remove from the Australian people, or at very least severely curtail, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, and Freedom of Association.

Clauses 17 and 19 which include the words "conduct that offends, insults or intimidates", "religion", and "political opinion", as protected attributes, seem all very fine. BUT without defining restrictions they allow unrestrained abuse against defendants who would have to prove their innocence and without the help of legal representation. As such, these clauses are a straight out attack on Australian Society. Amending to provide definition would not greatly help as this would only reduce, not eliminate such abuse.

These 3 Clauses I have highlighted give every reason needed to reject this Bill.

The Right of Freedom of Religion for all Australian People and Religious Bodies, in all circumstances, the Right to be Presumed Innocent until proven guilty. and the Right to retain Legal Representation if desired, MUST be maintained.

I find it unbelievable that an Australian Politician would seek to introduce such a Rights DESTROYING Bill and have it considered in Parliament.

To all Senators who have to respond to this Bill. please be aware of what has happened in the States and of those who have spoken out against this Bill.

I implore you, on behalf of all Australians, to uphold their Rights and REJECT this deplorable attempt at introducing legislation that would so negatively impact on all Australians.

Sincerely

C. M. Hodges
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