



# FAMILY LIFE INTERNATIONAL

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## SUBMISSION

### **Inquiry into item 16525 in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations 2007**

In the early stages of pregnancy, a mother may believe, whether it is true or not, that her unborn child may be terminated: because it is not yet recognisable as a baby; it is in a very undeveloped state; it may not feel pain; or for any other reason, including her own strong desire not to be pregnant.

Not included, in this list, as reasons for abortion, are coercion, or any pressure, even subtly, brought to bear on the mother by others, although we are well aware that many women have abortions precisely

because of those pressures. Such abortions can never be in the best interests of the woman concerned.

Rather, she should be referred to agencies which will provide assistance for her, and, where she feels physically threatened by husband or boyfriend or others, the matter should be referred to the police.

At no stretch of the imagination could these abortions be lawful.

Later abortions fall into a different category.

No longer is it reasonable to argue that the unborn child is not recognisable as a baby, or that he/she does not feel pain. By the end of the first trimester, everything is now present in the foetus that will be found in a fully developed adult. He has a heartbeat, his stomach produces digestive juices, the

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kidneys have begun to function, forty muscle sets begin to operate in conjunction with the nervous system, the body responds to touch, fingerprints are evident and the hand will curl around an object placed in the palm of its hand. Who could forget the famous image of the unborn child, 21 weeks, grasping the finger of the doctor who was operating on him in utero?

It must not be forgotten that babies aborted later in the pregnancy sometimes survive the abortion and are delivered alive. **See attached testimony of Gianna Jessen.** Abortion survivors are usually just left to die and a claim is made on Medicare. We are turning our medical personnel into paid killers.

Why then, does a mother abort her unborn child at these later stages? We can rule out ‘in the best interests of the child’, since the abortion kills the child. Hardened criminals are not dealt with as cruelly as we deal with handicapped or ‘unwanted’ unborn babies. For them, the sentence is capital punishment.

Is it in the mother’s best interests then? The answer is in the negative.

Those who still deny the link between abortion and breast cancer are like those who once denied the link between smoking and lung cancer. Their numbers are dwindling. There is an abundance of evidence showing that a late abortion places the mother at an even greater risk of developing breast cancer than she would face following an earlier abortion.

There is also ample evidence from independent researchers to show that women who abort are more likely to suffer from depression than women who carry their babies to term. This is particularly applicable to women who have later abortions.

Consider the plight of a woman whose ultrasound shows a foetal abnormality. This pregnancy is usually a wanted pregnancy and may even have been planned. It is no secret that women in this situation are almost expected to agree to a termination, which is supposed to be in their best interests. Is it? Counsellors who deal with these women tell us that, not only does the woman face a death

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experience, but she also has regret and often guilt, because she knows that her baby did not die naturally. Hence, she suffers twice and the guilt may remain unresolved for years.

Everyone talks a lot about 'closure' these days. As tragic as these situations are, mothers who carry their babies to term, knowing that the child may die before or shortly after birth, have time to prepare themselves and their families, and can come to love the child. These mothers can grieve naturally, lay their children to rest with the comfort and support of their families around them, and have closure, knowing that they have done everything they possibly could for the child.

As the American author, Randy Engels, once wrote, 'eugenics' now spelled 'g e n e t i c s'. Unborn babies are these days subjected to a barrage of 'tests' most of which have nothing to do with caring for the child, but instead have everything to do with eliminating the 'unfit'. The last thing that should be expected of a civilised society is that it condones the killing of those least able to defend themselves and most in need of our compassion and support, handicapped persons, born or unborn.

Medicare funding of these abortions should cease immediately and the funds be directed instead to support services and counselling.

In one sense, the numbers of claims made for second trimester abortion, and the costs involved for that matter, are irrelevant. There was a film made some years ago entitled "Judgment at Nuremberg", about

the trials of war criminals following World War II. In it, an eminent German jurist was found guilty of crimes against humanity. The jurist tries to excuse himself by saying, "You must believe me. We didn't know it would come to this", ie the extermination of millions of innocent people in the camps.

The answer he received was, "The first time you sentenced an innocent man to death, it came to this."

Mrs Gail Instance

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## Attachment

### Gianna Jessen

Testimony of abortion survivor Gianna Jessen before the Constitution Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee on April 22, 1996:

**"My name is Gianna** Jessen. I am 19 years of age. I am originally from California, but now reside in Franklin, Tennessee. I am adopted. I have cerebral palsy. My biological mother was 17 years old and seven and one-half months pregnant when she made the decision to have a saline abortion. I am the person she aborted. I lived instead of died.

Fortunately for me the abortionist was not in the clinic when I arrived alive, instead of dead, at 6:00 a.m. on the morning of April 6, 1977. I was early, my death was not expected to be seen until about 9 a.m., when he would probably be arriving for his office hours. I am sure I would not be here today if the abortionist would have been in the clinic as his job is to take life, not sustain it. Some have said I am a "botched abortion", a result of a job not well done.

There were many witnesses to my entry into this world. My biological mother and other young girls in the clinic, who also awaited the death of their babies, were the first to greet me. I am told this was a hysterical moment. Next was a staff nurse who apparently called emergency medical services and had me transferred to a hospital.

I remained in the hospital for almost three months. There was not much hope for me in the beginning. I weighed only two pounds. Today, babies smaller than I have survived.

A doctor once said I had a great will to live and that I fought for my life. I eventually was able to leave the hospital and be placed in foster care. I was diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a result of the abortion.

My foster mother was told that it was doubtful that I would ever crawl or walk. I could not sit up independently. Through the prayers and dedication of my foster mother, and later many other people, I eventually learned to sit up, crawl, then stand. I walked with leg braces and a walker shortly before I turned age four. I was legally adopted by my foster mother's daughter, Diana De Paul, a few months after I began to walk. The Department of Social Services would not release me any earlier for adoption.

I have continued in physical therapy for my disability, and after a total of four surgeries, I can now walk without assistance. It is not always easy. Sometimes I fall, but I have learned how to fall gracefully after falling 19 years.

I am happy to be alive. I almost died. Every day I thank God for life. I do not consider myself a by-product of conception, a clump of tissue, or any other of the titles given to a child in the womb. I do not consider any person conceived to be any of those things.

I have met other survivors of abortion. They are all thankful for life. Only a few months ago I met another saline abortion survivor. Her name is Sarah. She is two years old. Sarah also has cerebral palsy, but her diagnosis is not good. She is blind and has severe seizures. The abortionist, besides injecting the mother with saline, also injects the baby victims. Sarah was injected in the head. I saw the place on her head where this was done. When I speak, I speak not only for myself, but for the other survivors, like Sarah, and also for those who cannot yet speak ...

Today, a baby is a baby when convenient. It is tissue or otherwise when the time is not right. A baby is a baby when miscarriage takes place at two, three, four months. A baby is called a tissue or clumps of cells when an abortion takes place at two, three, four months. Why is that? I see no difference. What

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are you seeing? Many close there eyes...

The best thing I can show you to defend life is my life. It has been a great gift. Killing is not the answer to any question or situation. Show me how it is the answer.

There is a quote which is etched into the high ceilings of one of our state's capitol buildings. The quote says, "Whatever is morally wrong, is not politically correct." Abortion is morally wrong. Our country is shedding the blood of the innocent. America is killing its future.

All life is valuable. All life is a gift from our Creator. We must receive and cherish the gifts we are given. We must honor the right to life.

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