

I am writing to register my support for the proposed bill which would remove Medicare funding for sex-selection abortions.

As a mother of 5 children I know what it is to yearn for a child of a particular gender. That is an understandable desire. Yet it is not something that we can presume to have control over. Abortions for gender selection are a blot on our nation's collective slate. After decades of seeking to remove discrimination in our society, based on gender, race, disability, etc we are now entering a new wave of discrimination – the actual killing of people who do not fit our criteria of who we would like in our family. If this act were to occur after birth, the parents and medical personnel involved would be arrested for murder or manslaughter. What makes this act any more right, just because it happens when that same child is hidden from view in the supposedly safe environment of his or her mother's womb?

It is the responsibility and indeed privilege of all our parliamentarians to ensure that every child, regardless of gender, is afforded the basic human right of life. As a nation which has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), our laws should be working to protect the unborn, due to their vulnerable state, in accordance with the CRC.

Furthermore, Medicare should be strictly limited to health procedures. It is readily apparent that abortion for gender selection is simply a matter of cultural or personal preference and thus not a medical matter. Taxpayers should not be funding these abortions. They are not medical procedures but merely acts of harm to another human being because their gender is considered not "right".

I urge you to act swiftly to remove Medicare funding of gender-selection abortions so that this abhorrent act can be reduced. I would further urge that the AMA be advised not to allow their doctors to conduct such abortions at all, that our nation might have this awful act – the ultimate in sex discrimination – entirely eliminated from our midst.