

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee,  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600.

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing to express my support for Senator John Madigan's Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013. Medicare funding should be removed when "the termination is carried out ~~by~~ solely because of the gender of the foetus" section 17A (1) (b).

The inclusion of sex-selective abortions in a Medicare funding plan would appear to give legitimacy to a practice which is in fact alien to Australian culture and values. Primarily, it would reduce the unborn child to a commodity, to be disposed of for the most facile of reasons: its gender does not please the parents.

In Australia, any child - male or female - has the potential to live a fulfilling and valuable life in both public and private spheres. In countries like China or India in which sex-selective abortion is permitted, the practice targets and devalues female children. Surely, this distinction between male and female life is artificial and wrong. Thus, I support Senator Madigan's Amendment.

Yours sincerely,  
Penelope Renner.