
Dear Sir/Madam,
April 2013

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RE: Submission for Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013

I support Senator John Madigan's **Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain types of Abortion) Bill 2013**. Gender-selective abortions discriminate against the unborn child based on his or her gender and should *not* be done at taxpayers' expense.

Medicare funding should be removed when "the termination is carried out solely because of the gender of the foetus" section 17A (1) (b). It is unacceptable to use taxpayers money to selectively kill unborn children based on their gender.

Medicare money should not be wasted, squandered, misdirected, spent irresponsibly on the killing of the unborn child. Unborn girls should not be devalued, dehumanised and discriminated against.

Bangladesh born writer and activist, Rukhsana Hasib, author of *Shadows in the Sun*, tells a story of women's oppression in Eastern cultures.

A common reason for aborting female foetuses has been folk teachings that a son takes responsibility in taking care of his parents and ancestors, especially with funeral rites.

A son is seen as a means of elongating the family name, while a daughter is a 'burden' who must be provided a dowry and husband and whose virtue must be protected.

This does not occur in only rural provinces, but also in urban districts. Paying for gender-selective abortions using taxpayers' money legitimises such discriminatory practices. Therefore, medicare funding for sex-selective abortions should be outlawed.

Hasib has applauded American efforts to raise awareness on the issue and has praised a bill introduced by the House of Representatives, aiming to prohibit sex-selective abortions in the US. Senator Madigan's bill would raise further awareness on the discrimination of the practice of sex-selective abortions.

"People must recognize the dignity of women and the value of their nurturing

and life-giving role, as well as their many contributions to society." Hasib stated. I completely agree.

Please see www.itsagirlmovie.com for more.

Once again, allow me to state my support for this bill.

Yours sincerely,

Jasmine Yow