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The Chairperson
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
Canberra 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

This submission is to support Senator John Madigan's proposed bill "Health Insurance Amendment(Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013.

Five major factors should be given due weight in making a decision to support the bill:

1. To abort a foetus solely because of the sex of the child is a form of genocide with far reaching effects alluded to below.

2. United Nations agencies working to end this discriminatory practice should be supported by Australia.

3. Gender selective abortion for no other reason than the sex of the potential individual is not a medical procedure and therefore should not qualify for Medicare funding.

4. There are informal reports of this practice occurring in Australia which is a misuse of Medicare funding and can only lead to the discredit of a scheme of national insurance which is envied by many other countries.

5. Finally the observed long term deleterious effects of gender selection resulting in already apparent gender imbalance in some other countries with resultant major social repercussions for women, children and men should engender urgent action.

As a pragmatist however the ability to detect breaches of such a proposed prohibition will no doubt challenge the skills of those who draft any resultant legislation.

Yours sincerely,

Clinical Associate Professor John York MD, FRACP, FRCP, Grad. Dip. Couns.,

cc. Senator Madigan Parliament House Canberra 2600