

24th April 2013

The Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

Parliament House

Canberra

ACT

Dear Committee Members

We are writing to you in support of the Health Insurance (Certain Types of Abortion) Amendment Bill 2013. Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this important Bill Amendment

It is absolutely repugnant to us that taxpayers money is being used to fund abortions due to the baby's gender. How can any government of this Nation allow such practice and encourage it with funding. No parent has the right to abort a child due to its gender. We have seen the horrific practise of this form of abortion in other Nations and have condemned it but here we are promoting it and sanctifying it in our own Nation.

This is definitely gendercide and as Australians we should have nothing to do with it. It is not a medical procedure, it is an act of wilful murder.

Children are a wonderful gift given to enhance our lives and to even contemplate to abort a child because of its "incorrect" gender is an abhorrent act. A child if it is not wanted in a family he/she can be given up for adoption or take steps to prevent pregnancy. We can

hear the arguments in our minds....if they are not wanted they will not be accepted into the family....they would be better off not being born. However, it would be very extreme circumstances where a child born into a family is not loved even if initially it is not the gender the family were wanting. We have several friends who have experienced this. It can be a real grief for parents and even siblings, however as with grief, if it is acknowledged and worked through, the acceptance comes. We would be much better off funding appropriate counselling for these disappointed families to help them in their loss and disappointment.

Then there are the cases where the ultrasound results have been incorrect. This procedure is not without error in its results. As a registered nurse, Jane has seen quite a number of babies born where the parents had been told it was a boy and out came a little girl and visa versa. These parents suffer quite a shock but they adjust accordingly as time passes.

We hope that you have had submissions from ones that have experienced having a child of the “wrong” gender and how they now would not change that child for anything or anyone although at the time of finding out the news they considered abortion . Personal testimony of parents that have this story to tell is encouraging and powerful and adds important substance to support this Bill Amendment. We know of such people.

We commend this Bill Amendment to the Committee and strongly urge that it be recommended to Parliament to be adopted.

Yours sincerely

Shane and Jane Foreman