

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

Inquiry Submissions

-It is absolutely and utterly the true definition of gender discrimination.

-This is not a medical procedure but solely performed on the basis of gender, it should therefore not be afforded Medicare benefits.

-Medicare funding should be strictly limited to health procedures; taxpayers should not be funding decisions based purely on cultural or personal preference. Taxpayers also have cultural and personal preferences and a procedure like sex-selection abortions may be contrary to those.

-If we consider that we have an ageing population and in fact that fertility is very low...we could be better allocating taxpayers funds to Medicare benefits that will need to address the greater health care costs that create disparity in terms of access to health care which is a fundamental right to all citizens.

-It is simple to know what the right thing to do is if our conscience is asked; where selfish ambition is pursued all virtue is omitted.

- It is the duty of legislators to ensure every child, regardless of gender, is afforded the basic human right of life. How can we want a new life so badly (baby) to then have sex-selection abortions. We have laws that protect the environment of children, we need to consider the mother's womb as the environment for a new life, a new baby regardless of sex. Who are we to say the difference that child will make in this world?

-We speak so much about choice and the woman's right to choose, yet which woman or man ever chose to be born? No one has ever been able to choose their own birth...this is a gift. Why are we devaluing the most fundamental of all gifts given to us? We only have a choice in the way we live...this currently goes against all principles of promoting positive living, active living and promoting health for all.

-The law should protect the unborn given their vulnerable state, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

-By providing Medicare funding of sex-selection abortions, is contributing to the increase of this abhorrent act; the government should work to see a reduction in abortion. If this abhorrent act was practiced in animals we would all feel disgusted, how easy human life is devalued when the conversation becomes about 'me' or 'I'. When there is absolutely no risk to health of mother and

child, why choose to end a life based on its gender? It takes a whole society to raise a child not one parent or two, or even one family. The balance lies in society and humanity as whole. Do we know what we could potentially be holding back from society by aborting a life that cannot speak for itself?

-We need to look at the greater picture also; just as no one has been able to choose their birth or gender we need to accept that there are reasons for this. We cannot ignore the greater picture either...no one knows how their children will fare in life, what their joys or tribulations will be. Modern medical science teaches that there are not only genetic but environmental, social and lifestyle factors that impact health. Disease begins with a behaviour. How would a parent feel years later if the child born with the 'selected' gender suffers in life in part due to their particular 'selected' gender? Life is hard without us knowingly and unknowingly choosing to make it harder.