

To: Senate Committee

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I am opposed to Medicare funding for sex selection abortions. Some reasons for my opposition are as follows:

- Aborting an unborn child solely on the basis of gender is not a medical procedure and should therefore not be afforded Medicare benefits. This is especially pertinent in this period of economic uncertainty, where the government does not have the luxury to be spending money where it need not. For example, at the same time that this amendment is being considered, the government is looking to cap tax exemptions, which will do a lot of damage to the quality of the delivery of health (<https://ama.com.au/cap-tax-deductions-work-related-self-education-expenses#comment-form>).
- It is the duty of legislators to ensure every child, regardless of gender, is afforded the basic human right of life. This legislation accounts to a very hideous act of sexism.
- The law should protect the unborn given their vulnerable state, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Any form of pregnancy termination can be traumatic to the mother and the family. The repercussions of these terminations to the future mental and physical health of the mother have not been properly investigated. As a society we should be supporting mothers and families to minimize the 'need' for abortions, not find ways to encourage such potentially traumatizing procedures.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Yours truly,

Fr George Liangas