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Submission to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

I write to support the Bill introduced by Senator Madigan last month whereby Medicare funding would not be available to provide gender selective abortions in Australia. We have already seen tragic reports of this procedure, quite common in some overseas countries, being performed in Australia. This practise is morally and ethically unacceptable, and a gross injustice to vulnerable unborn babies. What a dangerous place the womb has become - even in Australia.

The desire for this procedure, being based on cultural or personal preference, is not a medical procedure and should not be afforded medical benefits, being paid for by our tax payers.

It is a terrible tragedy that life, our most basic right, would be denied, mostly to little girls because of a preference for male children among especially some ethnic groups. This has also led to a great imbalance of the sexes in some nations. Or the reason may be for family balancing or for financial reasons - also unethical, and selfish.

Please give credit both to the UN agencies such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other highly recommended medical organisations endeavouring to end gender selection by abortion; and heed their warnings. Other first world nations are also raising consternation about such a practice.

It is the duty of you, our legislators, to protect your people and your country from the dangers associated with unrestrained use of termination of lives thus.

I will not vote for a government which does not take a strong stand against gender-selective abortion.

Sincerely submitted,  
(Mrs) Ruth Cummings