



Rev Joseph Theodorsen

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SUBMISSION
Human Rights (Children Born Alive Protection) Bill 2022
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

Dear Senate Committee members,

Thank-you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate inquiry on the *Human Rights (Children Born Alive Protection) Bill 2022*.

By way of background, I am a pastor in the Lutheran Church of Australia, and current chair of the Lutherans for Life committee. Our purpose is to uphold and promote the sanctity of life, both within the church and the wider community, by bringing relevant information about laws, science, and events to the attention of the public, providing resources to those who wish to defend the gift of life, and fostering community responsibility for the defence of those whose life others would classify as unwanted, lacking quality, worthless, or otherwise dispensable.

I support the Bill because I believe that all babies born in Australia should receive equal treatment under the law. Babies born alive after a failed abortion should receive the same medical care as other babies born under different circumstances.

I, and I believe most Australians, find the current practice of allowing babies to die post-birth without any medical intervention to be a seriously poor reflection of the society that we live in. The amount of children that this has happened to is by no means insignificant, and likely much larger than current information suggests, being that it is not required to report such occurrences.

This practice causes untold harm both to the child, the mother, and medical staff involved in the procedure. I appeal to your sense of morality and implore you to legislate this bill, and ensure that this practice ceases as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Theodorsen – Chair, Lutherans for Life.