

Janet Hall

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Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Inquiry into Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2005

I am writing to express my support for abortion to remain available to women via Medicare Benefits. Access to contraception and abortion is one of the key tenets of self determination of women in any society. There will always be interest groups that wish to take away the right of women to keep control of their own bodies and reproduction, however they should not be allowed to influence government as they are doing. It should not be the prerogative even of government ministers to introduce changes to law based on their own ideas and ethics, and make use of parliamentary majority to push them through. The proper basis for change of this nature would be reference to the views of the Australian public, and reference to the evidence of expert committees and inquiries.

I am particularly concerned too, that some women in our society still get pregnant through sexual intercourse that they have not actively consented to, or have in some cases actually tried to resist. Women's control of their lives is not sufficiently assured by equality in our society for us to be certain that we don't need to have recourse to abortion as a back up when contraception or free choice fail.

Yours sincerely
Janet Hall