

Dear Senator Moore,

I write to express my concern about the above bills.

Please let me tell you about my experience with homebirth and how it enriched not only my life but my husband's and my children...

I have 3 children, all were born at home. Though I don't plan on having any more I couldn't think of any other way to birth my kids than in our own home, where everything I needed was right there including proper care. After witnessing my nephew be born in a hospital, I realised just how UNstressful giving birth at home really is. People were not coming and going, my baby and I were not limited to time limits, I didn't have to listen to other women giving birth, my older children were witness to their siblings being born and it really does tie them to each other. All are very close... the list goes on and on and on.

I'm not going to give you a blow by blow of my experience as I don't think it's any of your business and I don't think that this is what it is all about. What I really want to stress here is that this bill is not limited to homebirth. It goes beyond that. This bill is about taking away a woman's choice. Regardless of how you and I feel about the heated and emotional debate on birthing at home vs in the hospital (there is no right way!!!), this bill is very much about taking a woman's choice away! Something my mother and grandmother and their peers worked incredibly hard to afford us.

If we take this away, then what?! Are we stripping our rights, but just doing it in such an insidious way of one at a time? That this right doesn't really matter because most people willingly give up their bodies to the accepted social norm?

I sincerely hope you and others out there realise that women who want to birth at home still will. What I worry about is that it will all go underground, or women will be giving birth on their own without skilled midwifery care. Inferior care would become rife... {Drugs are illegal, but you and I both know that Australia has a serious drug problem. It's not going to stop people (that includes so-called successful people too who indulge in illegal drugs, not just the stereotypical "low-lives") from accessing drugs that are illegal if they feel strongly about it.}

I support a system where all consumers are treated equally, with the same access to funding and the same insurance protection. God knows I pay my taxes...

I hope this weighs heavily on your shoulders and hope that this bill is seen for what it really is, not just a birthing issue.

Sincerely,

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Kim Grant