



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Mr Johnathan Davis (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Petterson MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT

Submission Number: 15

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - HCW](#)
Subject: Re: Inquiry into abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT
Date: Sunday, 14 August 2022 3:16:52 PM

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Dear Standing Committee On Health And Community Wellbeing,
I am writing to express my concern regarding the push for abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT.

Today's society is passionate about social justice and equality, and many Government legislation and policies seek to protect these "rights" for the good of the whole. However, its perplexing to see how the same logic does not apply to the most basic, inherent, and inalienable human right, the right to life – which exists wherever life exists.

Science and sound reasoning tell us that human embryos and human fetuses are alive. Abortion is just harmless surgery if the unborn are not human beings, but if the unborn are growing, they must be alive. To deprive the unborn child its fundamental right to life based on age, size, or condition of dependency, is unjust and something we cannot advocate as a society.

This view is not about imposing personal religious opinion on others any more than those who oppose other forms of violence and discrimination, such as rape or the killing of full-grown adults. The youngest members of the human family deserve protection under the law just like everyone else.

While we must be sympathetic to the many difficult reasons motivating woman to choose abortion – such as poverty, domestic violence, and lack of familial support – these should be addressed at a social level and alternatives readily promoted. Information on the many not-for-profit organisations available to provide support from conception to birth and post, including adoption opportunities, should be more widely circulated. Government funding should seek to directly support these organisations further.

Abortion has been found to have ill-effects not only on the children whose lives are ceased, but for many of their mothers who are physically, psychologically and spiritually wounded by the experience; to adversely effecting existing family, future children, health care workers, and would-be adopting parents; to dangerously devalue the currency of human life and change both medical ethics and social mores; to contribute to the rapid aging of Australian society.

Finally, it should be noted that for people of faith, it would be inappropriate to request their tax be directed towards any reforms that support/fund abortions. These decisions would implicate the individual's right to freedom of religion by inadvertently requesting they condone the practice of abortion.

While we're all guilty of becoming numb to the decisions we make in this fast-pace and stressful world, it's important to stop and reflect and realise what it is we may be advocating. Think of those dearest to you, what if they never had a chance to enter this world, how would your life have been impacted as result? Every child is a gift to this world, let's protect them while they're unable to speak for themselves. They want a chance at life too.

Thank you for taking the time to read this submission, its most appreciated.

Kind regards,

Catherine

Catherine Cunningham

