

I am writing to you as I am opposed to the Abortion Zone Bill which will criminalize pro-life groups.

This is an oppressive bill that will criminalize any pro-life people who are holding peaceful vigils, who could be praying and offering help, or even simply holding a sign with fines of up to £2500.

The Police already have adequate powers in place to deal with any alleged activity that is against the law, and there is no Police evidence to substantiate Claire Bailey's claims of harassment or intimidation outside abortion centres.

Freedom of Assembly and Freedom of Expression are fundamental Human Rights - both protected under Article 10 and 11 of the Human Rights Act.

Abortion Zones will rob women of help and alternatives and support available. Many women offered help outside Abortion Centres have decided to keep their babies.

Establishment and reviewing of so-called Safe Access Zones could impose costs on the Department Of Health. Similar Zones in England have cost the Taxpayer £150,00 and £250,000. These costs imposed on the public purse were in relation to legal costs incurred from resisting appeals to convictions. This Bill admits that it is reasonable to assume the majority of costs imposed on the Department of Health for Northern Ireland will arise from enforcement and legal costs.

The Health Service in Northern Ireland is already in Crisis through lack of funding and Taxpayer's money would be better spent treating people who are on 10 year waiting lists for treatment rather than adding more financial burdens to the Health Service.