

To the Committee,

I want to strongly support the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill.

A society that supports the weakest members is the strongest society. I want N Ireland to be, and to be known as, such a society.

It is too easy to apply labels to persons and use laws to deal with categories. However everyone is a person and should have the rights that everyone else has.

The Committee has a heavy responsibility and I would suggest that each member, before the 7th May, attends a centre where so called 'disabled' people are cared for and there find that these people are important members of our society with so much to contribute. I challenge the Committee members to meet with these precious and special people and thereby understand that they have as much right to life as Committee members have. Then they will be able to see the potential in the waiting to be born persons, waiting in the protection of a mother's womb, allowed to be born into a society that values them, will nurture them and will benefit from their inherent gifts.

As a Doctor (now retired) I have had the privilege of caring for all my patients, all of whom are less than able when they came to me for help. I was privileged to care for them all equally. To care for those most in need is a privilege and amongst many other benefits carers can develop strong caring characteristics which hugely benefit the whole of society.

As a Christian I recognise that each Committee member and each child in the womb has been created in the image of God – has the potential to have a relationship to their Creator. How could any of us conspire to try and abort such a calling.

May God bless and direct you in your decision making.