

To whom it may concern,

I am an obstetric and gynaecology trainee working in Northern Ireland and I am extremely concerned about this bill.

Many women do not find out there is a significant issue until 20 weeks. It can then take time for a full diagnosis, a process that should never be rushed! Then families need time to process and make a decision. None of this should have a time limit.

I have personally lost 2 children and therefore, unfortunately know many women in the loss community. None chose to lose their baby, none wanted to have a termination but they discussed with their health professionals and made the decision they decided was in the best interests of their child and the rest of their family.

I know a significant number who also haven't had a diagnosis until later in the pregnancy and had to make the heartbreaking choice not to continue the pregnancy. At that gestation women still have to give birth, they usually name their child and mourn them for the rest of their lives.

I can't imagine being in that position, but it is something that should never be rushed due to a dictated time limit or other people's personal or religious beliefs. I wouldn't wish losing a child on my worst enemy and I know many women who have had tfmr have the added guilt of having made the choice to end their pregnancy. They simply don't need the extra stigma associated with child loss.

I hope you decide in the best interests of women and families in Northern Ireland