

Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to express my wholehearted support for this bill.

- The law protects babies without a “disability” in the womb from the 24th week of pregnancy so that they cannot be aborted; however it does not provide the same protection for babies of the same gestation who have a suspected or diagnosed non-fatal disability. A separate gestational limit for abortion on the grounds of non-fatal disability is discriminatory. The bill will therefore do much to combat the disability discrimination that exists within current abortion regulations and is therefore to be very much welcomed.
- The current abortion law has the wholly undesirable effect of reinforcing stereotypes towards people with disabilities and as a consequence has a profoundly negative impact on people with disabilities. This needs to change so that those with disabilities are valued equally and cherished as much as people without disabilities. This bill will help to achieve this outcome.
- The current abortion has a negative impact on women who are pregnant with a disabled child. Parents of children with conditions such as Down’s syndrome in other parts of the UK have spoken out about the stigma and stereotypes that the equivalent law in Great Britain perpetuates and the impact that this has on medical treatment that they have received while pregnant and beyond. This bill will help to address this negative impact