

To whom it may concern:

I write in support of Paul Givan's Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill.

I believe there exists disability discrimination within the current abortion regulations i.e. the same protection is not given to babies from the 24th week of pregnancy who have a suspected or diagnosed non-fatal disability as those babies without a "disability".

We live in an age when equality is a word mentioned every day. Let us in Northern Ireland foster equality by upholding the rights of the unborn with disabilities thereby reinforcing the understanding that every person in our province deserves equality and respect.

I had an Uncle who had Downs Syndrome. He was one of a family of 6. [REDACTED] was greatly loved and valued by his parents and siblings. Working very hard and meticulously on his brother's farm he lived a very fulfilling life. How sad to think that anyone would even have contemplated ending [REDACTED] life through the cruelty of abortion before it even began just because he had Downs Syndrome.

There are many like [REDACTED] alive today who have expressed the deep hurt they feel at this law. Heidi Crowter has become a household name in her very brave attempt to change the same discriminatory law in England. Heidi says "this law says to her that her life just isn't as valuable as others and I don't think that's right. I think it's downright discrimination"!

Let us grasp this opportunity to correct this wrong and make Heidi and all those other people with for e.g. club foot / cleft palate know that they are as equally valued and loved in society as everyone else is.