

I am making this submission to the Committee in support of the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill.

The current abortion regulations undermine 30 years of disability protection and fighting for equality in Northern Ireland

- The experiences of individuals and their families in other parts of the UK, where disability selective abortions have been in place for over thirty years, demonstrate that such stereotypes and inadequacies in support are inevitable when laws are in place that make a distinction between unborn babies with a disability and those without.

- There is ample evidence that permitting this practice has a harmful impact on the wider community of people with Down's syndrome, including children and adults with Down's syndrome and their families.

- The Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill will help foster equality by upholding the rights of the unborn with disabilities and reinforcing the understanding that every person in Northern Ireland deserves equality and respect.

The current abortion regulations will have a negative impact on women who are pregnant with an unborn baby who has a disability: