

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

In this submission I have outlined the key reasons why there urgently needs to be a change in the law as proposed by the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill.

Similar wording in legislation in England, Wales and Scotland has allowed for abortion for disabilities including cleft lip, club foot and Down's syndrome

Contrary to my wishes, my late wife aborted in a Private Hospital what would have been our third child. It had a bad effect upon our marriage and her health deteriorated and she is now dead after 25 years of marriage.

I was born and educated in Northern Ireland but now live in England where abortion seems to be common place. Little concern seems to be given to parents about the "after effects" that abortion has upon the grieving parents, their marriage, and the feelings of "guilt" that remains for many years after the abortion.

I cannot understand why any Medical Professional, or Politician, would encourage or allow themselves to be involved in discriminating against unborn babies and also being unconcerned about the "mental well being" of grieving parents.

To discriminate against unborn babies simply because they may have a disability by aborting them before birth is incredulous and really "scraping the bottom of the barrel" of human depravity.

I could never vote for any politician who sunk to such depths.

I am now 79 years of age and in my life time I have known many adults and children who were born with disabilities including being unable to walk, sickle cell anaemia, cleft lip, club foot and Down's syndrome, yet they seem to live happy and fruitful lives - it is those of us who do not have disabilities that seem to have problems.

I would remind you that people with "Down's syndrome" proved to be invaluable during the Second World War in discovering how to break German secrecy codes.

When the Westminster Government announced the new abortion regulations for Northern Ireland, they made it clear that their aim was to have abortion available up to birth for disabilities under the same grounds that provide abortion up to birth for disabilities in England - which includes the disabilities that I have mentioned above.

So please, take this opportunity to secure and protect the lives of unborn babies including those with suspected disabilities.