

I wish to register my opposition to the abortion zones bill.

What this bill is supporting is in direct opposition to the right to free speech and the right to peaceful assembly both of which are vital rights within a democracy.

There is absolutely no evidence that such a bill is necessary as the police already have the power to deal with any law breaking within a peaceful protest and there is no police evidence that there has been any illegal activity outside the abortion centres.

What does happen there is that people stand with a poster or praying and provide these vulnerable women with a chance to save their babies lives. It seems ridiculous that praying peacefully would be made illegal.

Creating these zones creates a problem where there isn't one and the cost of enforcing them is something a cash strapped Department of Health cannot afford. Their money should be spent on the medical ideal of protecting life and doing no harm. This Bill seems mischievous in the extreme in its bid to criminalise peaceful citizens of Northern Ireland.