

I support the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) bill.

These are my reasons for supporting the above bill:

1) This Bill aims to combat the disability discrimination that exists within the current abortion regulations.

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.

2)The 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.

3)The current abortion law perpetuates stereotypes towards people with disabilities and will have a profoundly negative impact on those with disabilities.

A person living with a disability in Northern Ireland will feel the affects of this law. For example, disability campaigner Heidi Crowter has spoken publicly about the impact of the current law saying, “the law makes me feel like I should not exist.”

- [STAY IN TOUC](#)**The current abortion law undermines 30 years of disability protection and fighting for equality in Northern Ireland.**Attitudes towards disability have changed significantly in the past 30 years, as reflected in the legislation in this area: the Disability Discrimination Act 1995; the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006. All of these aim to foster equality and introduce legal provisions against disability discrimination in Northern Ireland. These laws reflect the fact that every person, regardless of so-called disability, is of value and worth.
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