

Dear committee member,

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

I would request you think of changing the law as proposed by the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill to protect any child with a physical or mental impairment whose life is at risk.

A couple of general thoughts:

Society has introduced laws and practices to recognise the personhood of people with impairments to tackle discrimination and unfair treatment. Such people have and continue to contribute to the good of humanity in so many ways. Without that contribution we would be impoverished. Unborn persons with impairments should not be excluded from life because society would be denied their future contributions that only they would make. We are all unique and make a difference.

Also, aborting persons because of a disability/impairment will have a devastating effect on people now alive with the same type of impairment. How must it make someone feel to know that in different times and circumstances they could have been denied life. It is undervaluing them, seeing them as less than any other person simply because of an impairment.