



Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide

Archbishop of Adelaide

29th October, 2020
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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace I hope that this note finds you well.

I would like to take a little of your time to speak of a very important issue that you may not be fully aware of and which requires urgent action on the part of our Catholic community.

A Bill entitled ***Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2020*** is now before the SA Legislative Council, and it is the intention of the Deputy Premier that it be passed by both Houses of Parliament before the end of the year.

Unlike the current legislation, this Bill allows for abortion up until birth. There is no protection for a viable baby who would otherwise be delivered alive, other than requiring the consent of two doctors.

At a time when babies delivered from around 22 weeks have a very high chance of survival and enormous resources are rightfully put into their care, it is hard to fathom how anyone could justify late-term abortions.

To legislate for abortions up until birth shows a total disregard for the rights, and future, of the unborn child. It sends a disturbing message to the community about the value of some lives over others.

The Bill also allows abortions up to 22 weeks to be carried out with the consent of only one medical practitioner, including via tele-medicine in regional areas. There are concerns this will make vulnerable women more susceptible to social and economic coercion and compromise women's health.

I strongly encourage you to contact your local MP, urging them to use their conscience vote to reject this ill-conceived Bill.

The first and most important duty of the Parliament is to protect the life of its citizens. We need to remind them of this.

As followers of Christ, we are called to offer our deepest compassion for women struggling with such a difficult decision and to offer our ongoing support to them. However, we believe life to be a gift of God, to be cherished and revered, at every stage of life.

At moments such as these, Jesus' words, "*I have come that you might have life and have it to the full echo in our hearts.*" (John 10:10)

Please join me in praying for the defeat of this Bill.

With renewed thanks and asking God's continued blessing for you and your communities.

In Domino,

+ Pat O'Regan

+Patrick O'Regan

Archbishop of Adelaide

Sample letter to MPs

The Honourable
Member for (electorate – for your local member) or Member Legislative Council
Parliament House, Adelaide SA 5000

October 2020

Dear

Re: ***“Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2020”***

I oppose the ***‘Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2020’***. While I believe that aborting babies at any stage is wrong, aborting babies who would otherwise be born alive is abhorrent and would be opposed by many in the community. Other aspects of this Bill are also of great concern.

I would rather the Government put its resources into supporting women through such a difficult time and after they have given birth.

I urge you to **VOTE NO** to this Bill.

Yours Sincerely

Name:

Address:

Signature:

Electorate: (for letters to your local member not MLCs)

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c/- Parliament House, Adelaide, 5000**

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Hon Emily Bourke MLC	Emily.Bourke@parliament.sa.gov.au	8237 9488	ALP
Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC	centofanti.office@parliament.sa.gov.au	8237 9350	Liberal
Hon John Darley MLC	darley.office@parliament.sa.gov.au	8237 9113	Independent
Hon John Dawkins MLC	dawkins.office@parliament.sa.gov.au	1800 182 097	Liberal
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