

Inquiry Secretary  
Health, Communities, Disability Services  
and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

4 October, 2016

Emma McLindon  
[REDACTED]

Dear Secretary,

I write to you as a multiple post-abortive woman who is vehemently opposed to the Amended Abortion Bill and everything it stands for.

I had my first abortion as a 16 year girl, some 27 years ago, and I can absolutely assure you, and the entire Committee, that there is indeed extensive grief and trauma that follows an abortion. These do not always start the moment you walk out of an abortion clinic, but eventually they catch up with you.

I would like to make you aware of the research carried out by Dr Theresa Burke who wrote the book 'Forbidden Grief', who discovered that many women go through periods of denying that their abortion has actually caused them any pain or trauma. I was one of those women..... until I could no longer run from the self destructive life and pain and I was forced to face the trauma of the 'choices' I had made.

[REDACTED]

My life turned upside down but no one really knew what was going on. You see, because it is "your choice", you are forced into a cone of silence because how can you come out and say you've made a huge mistake after you were the one to make the decision? No one wants to talk about it!! Everyone, the entire community, just brush it under the carpet. So you just continue to suppress it... and eventually you believe the lie that it hasn't hurt you.

I went from a healthy and fit young teenager to an excessive alcohol and drug taking promiscuous woman who spent the next 15 or so years spiralling out of control and at times was suicidal. But I didn't know why. I had no idea that abortion could do that to a person. After numerous doctors, counsellors, psychologists and psychiatrists, not one of them asked me if I'd had an abortion. Did they not know the pain and suffering a woman goes through when she has an abortion?

And to all of the people who say, 'It's my body, it's my choice'... well, that's just a flat out lie. We're not talking about your body. The argument is whether it should be legal to kill the life INSIDE of you. How utterly selfish have we become as a society that we believe it's okay

to kill a human life. And yes, I did also commit this act... but I was so blinded, lied to, not told the truth, forced, coerced and abused into most of my abortions that I felt I had no option. How sad. Sad that the best we have to offer women, OUR Queensland women, is killing her child to make her situation better.

I would also like to point out that:

- Abortion was “illegal” when I had mine... but no one told me!
- Abortion was very easy... a phone call.. a ‘counselling session’ from the abortion provider, a financial transaction, an appointment... No follow up.
- I did not receive any independent counselling and was not told the truth
- I was never offered any alternatives, solutions or help (adoption etc.)
- Not one person showed me any light on the situation, or gave me any hope that I could in fact raise a child

Again, I strongly oppose this Bill and hope that the Committee’s (and the entire community’s) eyes are opened to see the truth that abortion does hurt women and it will hurt our community, state and country. We need only look at the USA (and other countries around the world) to see that abortion clinics are CLOSING at a rapid rate... It may perhaps do us all some good to find out why!!!

*The clinics have been closing at a record pace, according to [REDACTED]: One-hundred-sixty-two have closed since 2011, while 22 have opened. Texas, for example, lost more than half of its clinics.*

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*53 Abortion Clinics Closed in 2015, 81% of All Abortion Clinics Open in 1991 Have Shut Down*

*NATIONAL*

*Cheryl Sullenger Dec 22, 2015 | 12:34PM Washington, DC*

Yours faithfully

**Emma McLindon**