

Legislation Committee

From: John Bron [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 1 May 2019 5:45 PM
To: Legislation Committee
Subject: Human Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Legislation,

I am writing to address your inquiry into the *Human Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*, which I understand will amend the *Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991* and the *Surrogacy Act 2008* to enable male same-sex couples and single men to access surrogacy.

I have grave concerns with the direction this is going in and would like to raise that with you, as you obviously make these decisions on our behalf. In the first place, as a Christian, this bill does not support the values and principals I stand for but secondly I would like to encourage you to think of the impact in a practical sense that this amendment will have on our society as a whole. The breakdown of family values, where children are no longer nurtured and cared for in an environment that is natural....even from a purely human perspective.

Please consider the following when you make a decision on this matter

Key arguments against the *Human Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*:

- The debate is currently being framed entirely from the perspective of adults, when it should be conducted from the perspective of children. Surrogacy will knowingly remove children from the mother who has carried and birthed them, creating parentage confusion. Surrogacy for single and homosexual men will deliberately and knowingly remove children from their mother (birth and biological) and will knowingly place them in a family without a father and mother. Research shows that children do best in intact biological families.
- God's design for the family is that children are an expectation within a family of one man and one woman who have sworn a lifelong oath of faithfulness to each other. Surrogacy continues the process of fracturing families and divides motherhood into various categories including genetic mother, birth mother, legal mother and social mother.
- Surrogacy risks exploiting women and damaging children. Even if it is not a 'commercial' arrangement, there are many possibilities for coercion of the birth mother (e.g., by refusing to take the child) and many risks (e.g. pulling out of the arrangement). Surrogacy has been totally prohibited for both men and women in many countries including Germany, Denmark, France, Spain, Switzerland, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia and Lithuania.
- Surrogacy creates ongoing ethical issues. There are easily-searchable cases online where genetic parents have ordered the birth mother to undergo an abortion or where babies have been abandoned after birth

because of a disability. It risks making children a commodity.

- It is disingenuous to justify surrogacy for men and same-sex male couples on the basis that Australia has legalised same-sex marriage. Voting to allow same sex marriage is a separate matter from voting to allow same-sex couples to have children through surrogacy.
- When surrogacy laws were initially introduced, they were designed to allow people who had a reasonable expectation of having children to do so, i.e. women. That change was controversial enough. Men, by virtue of their biology, cannot bear children and thus there is no need for the law to 'correct' this. In its current form the law will actually create a double standard, placing restrictions on women but not on men.

Yours faithfully,

Kind Regards

John Bron
Director / Project Manager



Intelligent Design, Quality Build

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