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PRO-CHOICE SUPPORTERS MUST ACT

Below is an article from Catholic News, suggesting that Ron Boswell WILL NOT proceed with his Private Members bill to restrict access to dignified, private, safe, legal and affordable abortion until the public shows more support for his cause.

The article seems designed to - and almost certainly will - kindle a big response from the tiny group of Australians opposed to the freedom to choose. They will contact the Prime Minister's office showing support for Boswell's bill. THIS MEANS PRO-CHOICE SUPPORTERS MUST ACT.

If every one of the 81% of Australians that were found in a recent ANU survey to support a woman's right to choose sent an email to the Prime Minister's Office, it might dissuade him from giving Boswell the leave he needs to table his bill. If isn't tabled, it won't be debated or voted on, and the bitter and divisive fight over abortion we never needed to have might finish before it starts.

Please send a short and respectful email to the Prime Minister John Howard at <http://www.pm.gov.au/email.cfm>

Express your opposition to any change to current arrangements regarding termination in Australia and feel free to add-in the ways in which he could change things to expand the freedom of women and couples to plan their families. Urge the Prime Minister to use his power to deny anti-choice MPs parliamentary time to debate or to vote on any Private Members' bills designed to change the abortion status quo.

And please, pass this email on to as many supporters of choice as you can. Let's flood the PM's inbox with calls for the government to turn away from a pointless and divisive debate on an issue settled to the satisfaction of most Australians years ago.

Dr Leslie Cannold
Spokesperson, Reproductive Choice Australia

Article: <http://www.cathnews.com/news/505/146.php>

Catholic Senator seeks community backing for abortion bill

Queensland Senator Ron Boswell has said that he won't table a private member's bill against abortion until there is more public support for the cause.

The Catholic Leader reports this week that the Nationals' Senator Boswell said it would be pointless to introduce the bill unless there was significant support in the community, providing a genuine chance for it to be passed in Federal Parliament.

Senator Boswell said it was vital to better inform the community about the abortion issue. He said many people were unaware when they heard the annual figure for abortions was in fact a third of Australian pregnancies.

Meanwhile, Adjunct Professor of the Southern Cross Bioethics Institute in Adelaide, Fr John Fleming, told the Australian Catholic bishops' plenary meeting earlier this month that claims of a majority support for abortion on demand was significantly softer than previously thought.

Fr Fleming presented the bishops with the report 'Give Women Choice: Australia Speaks on Abortion', which emerged from research undertaken by the Southern Cross Bioethics Institute.

The report's result reinforced Senator Boswell's assertion the issue needs to be managed differently.

Chairman of the Bishops' Committee for the Family and for Life, Bishop Eugene Hurley of Port Pirie, said the research would be a valuable tool for the Bishops' Taskforce on Pastoral Responses to Abortion.

He said it would give a focus to their efforts to recast the debate and provide women with alternatives to abortion.

The Leader, which is leading with the story in this Sunday's issue (pictured), also back's Senator Boswell's call in its editorial.

"He makes a valid point," says the editorial writer. "He is wasting his time if the community does not stand up and voice its support for an end to abortion."

Describing abortion as "murder on a grand scale", the Leader says there is "already growing evidence that people will support moves to curb abortions when they are given the facts, particularly when they are informed there is one abortion for every 2.8 births in Australia".

SOURCE

Senator Ron Boswell: Back pro-life cause (Catholic Leader 29/5/05)