

## **Andrew Rosindell M.P.**

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The Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid M.P.

Secretary of State
Department for Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
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Wednesday 30th March 2022

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Clause 184 of the Health and Social Care Bill - Abortion Pills

I am writing to you as a member of the Pro-Life A.P.P.G. to raise my grave concerns about the Amendment proposed by The Rt. Hon. Baroness Sugg to continue D.I.Y. abortion through the use of at-home abortion pills, a measure that was supposed to be temporary during the pandemic.

A late-night, last-minute amendment in the House of Lords overturning the recent Department for Health and Social Care's decision to end the temporary 'at-home' abortion provision is a poor way to make permanent the largest change to abortion law since 1967, especially as there was no prior scrutiny in earlier stages of the Bill. This is extremely worrying that this amendment could pass without scrutiny and the correct due diligence.

I am deeply concerned that the taking of both sets of abortion pills at home without direct medical supervision has led to a number of unacceptable health and safety risks to women and girls in this country, such as the lack of basic checks by abortion providers before sending abortion pills, and the occurrence of severe complications and later-term abortions due to the lack of an in-person assessment.

Moreover, it is highly likely complications are being under-reported, which is particularly concerning given that women are at greater risk from complications following a medical abortion.

Notably, recent polling in England found that 86% of women were concerned about women being at risk of coercion by a partner or family member where the doctor does not see the woman in person, whilst 87% of GPs polled in the UK were concerned that women were at risk of unwanted abortion arising from domestic abuse by partners controlling their actions.



Due to the serious and recurrent health risks presented to women and girls in England by 'at-home' abortion since its introduction in March 2020, I cannot support Baroness Sugg's Amendment (Clause 184) to the Health and Social Care Bill and I would urge colleagues and the Department for Health and Social Care to reject this dangerous and damaging procedure with enthusiasm.

Abortion is a serious decision that should be carefully thought through, it is a decision that should not be taken lightly and the continuation of D.I.Y. abortions encourage the needless loss of human life.

All human life is precious and should be protected, I therefore cannot support this Amendment on both moral grounds and the physical impacts it has one women and girls.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this proposal, and I look forward to your timely response.

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Andrew Rosindell M.P.