My wife suffers from a medical condition and was advised by her own professional colleagues when she was pregnant with our first child that it was very unlikely that the child would be carried full term or be alive at delivery. The first child my daughter [name] is now [25-30] years old and has achieved more in this time than most people who are a lot older. Leaving [University] with a double first degree in [subject] she has used her knowledge to good effect teaching refugees from [country] and Orphaned children in a home in [location].

Our second child [name] faced similar comments during my wife’s pregnancy. (I noted that these medical warnings were more muted I!) He has enjoyed a successful fulfilling role in his life having attained an honours degree in [subject] at [University] he is now working full time in [University] contributing 40% tax on his salary. What would have happened if we as parents had aborted these precious productive lives on the advice of the Medical profession?

Doctors make mistakes. My wife as a [medical professional] was horrified during her [training] in [country] to discover how easy it was to offer abortion if there was even a hint of a problem with the Foetus. It was almost mandatory to advise an abortion if an Amnio Syntethisis (Forgive the spelling but I’m not a doctor I) test showed a possibility of the Child having “Down’s Syndrome”. My wife’s best friend delivered a lovely baby boy 24 hours before our first child which had Down’s Syndrome. He has grown to be a wonderful young man with admittedly medical difficulties but is the “Heart and soul” of his local community –Everyone knows him and loves him.

I respect that on occasions there is the distinct possibility that a Foetus may not show signs of life but if the mother to be has any sense it should be given every chance to survive. By doing so the sadness and hurt the mother may suffer will be at least mitigated by the thought that she has at least done everything in her power to save the child.

Even a Child born with special needs can make a huge positive impact on the surrounding society. I recall a lovely wee boy [name] who was profoundly disabled being in our Children’s school. His presence raised the whole standard of care shown by his classmates to the extent that the Principle teacher remarked to me that [name]’s year was the best year he could recall the school ever having had in terms of discipline love and general care shown by the pupils. [Name] sadly died before his [10-15] birthday. I fondly remember him and the large amount of young students at his graveside. Most importantly i remember the devotion of [name]’s parents his teachers and all who had any contact with him it brought out the best in our society. I humbly ask that you as politicians do not play “God” with our unborn children by enforcing a change in the abortion laws in N.Ire.

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