July 2019

Dear Senator Lambie

Congratulations on being re-elected to the Senate. I wish you well as you negotiate the policy and legislative landscape and work out ways to best use your voice for fairness. I am aware of the pressure on you given your position on the cross bench, where your voice and position will often be critical in contributing to whether legislation can be made.

I, and many others, are concerned about the stated intention of the coalition Government to repeal what has come to be known as the ‘Medevac Bill’ (The [Home Affairs Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous Measures) Bill 2018](https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/legislation/amend/r6069_amend_daa31cc4-f3cb-44ba-b10d-fd7ad1ec0f9a/upload_pdf/8619%20CW%20Home%20Affairs%20Legislation%20Amendment%20(Miscellaneous%20Measures)%20Bill%202018%20Storer%20McKim.pdf;fileType=application/pdf)).

The essence of this legislation is to ensure that if two doctors agree that necessary medical treatment is not available for refugees or people seeking asylum in PNG or Nauru, then they will be brought to Australia for treatment.

It is clear from the number of people who have been brought to receive treatment in Australia so far under the Medevac legislation that it is not resulting in a great influx of people or boats as the government has predicted. It is also clear that the government retains full control of our borders — should the Minister for Home Affairs decide in a particular case that the evacuation is not safe for the Australian community, he is able to refuse permission for a transfer.

This is legislation that provides a very small number of sick people the medical care they desperately need. Nothing more, nothing less.

I urge you to use your voice for fairness and ensure that this life-giving legislation remains in place, and enable the advice of medical practitioners on matters of health be heeded.

Yours faithfully,