

HB 1313  
Testimony by Stephen Larson, North Dakota Resident  
1/25/2021

Good afternoon,

I am offering my testimony in support of House Bill 1313, a bill that will criminalize the abortion/murder of unborn children in the womb. I will state my support in five points.

1: Unborn children are human beings, made in the image of God. We know this first and foremost, because God the Creator has said as much, repeatedly (Genesis 1:27, 5:1-2, 9:6, and 25:22, Psalm 8:3-8 and 139:13-16, Luke 1:15 and 1:41, 1 Corinthians 11:7, James 3:9, and more). You and I and every person, however disabled, young or old, of whatever race, creed, or status, shares this image and value in the sight of God. Each Legislator, and each citizen, whatever their position on abortion, has been granted the gift of life and breath by God and their parents. It is an act of evil and arrogance for a person made by God who themselves escaped the abortionist's instruments of death to then try to deny the very basic right of life to the most defenseless persons among us. Babies cannot speak or defend themselves in any way, and only God can hear their cries as they are ripped from the womb. He will hold us to account, if we see and do nothing (Proverbs 24:11-12).

2: God clearly prohibits murder and has implanted this on the consciences of nations and peoples throughout all of history. Even secular nations throughout time have, by and large, understood murder to be a grave evil. Additionally, both God's Word (Exodus 20:13, Leviticus 24:17, Numbers 35:31, Deuteronomy 5:17, Amos 1:15, Matthew 5:21, Matthew 15:19, Romans 1:29, etc) and common sense dictate that murder, along with other grave crimes, must be legislated against so that the innocent can be protected. This does not prevent all murderers from committing murder, but we all understand that the law is created to restrain and limit crime, and this is the government's God ordained role (Romans 13). Truthfully, this bill doesn't go as far as it should in holding the guilty accountable, but it is a huge step in the right direction.

3: If we acknowledge that unborn children are humans made in the image of God (and in addition to the Bible and religious tradition, scientific advancements and research speak overwhelmingly of the unborn child's humanity to everyone) then they deserve the same legal protections everyone testifying both for and against this bill, as well as the Legislators considering it, possess. It is a tragedy this even has to be stated, but given that our nation does not honor unborn life as human, the law must be changed to explicitly protect the voiceless.

4: As Legislators, you, the Governor, and all state officials are obligated, both by God in heaven and by your own oaths of office, to uphold justice and defend the

Constitution. This means that Roe V. Wade, a Supreme Court decision based on unlawful authority (Congress is the only body, under the Constitution, with the authority to make laws), must be ignored and resisted to the utmost. The ruling was issued without legal authority (as even some in favor of abortion would acknowledge) and was based on the fallacious and evil idea of unborn children as merely “potential human beings.” The overwhelming testimonies of Scripture, conscience, and biological science contradict this lie. When a nation rebels against God’s laws, we must obey God rather than men. In this case, Legislators and the State of North Dakota would not only be obeying God, but also obeying our nation’s own laws by fighting back against the Roe V. Wade ruling. And yes, this means being willing to spend money and sacrifice popularity and praise. You in government have an obligation before God (and He will honor you and let the chips fall where they may) to protect the innocent and punish the guilty. Don’t fear popular opinion, or the federal government, or anyone else, except the God who will hold anyone who lets the murder of the innocent go accountable. Many states are already willing to defy Federal law on an issue such as marijuana...how much more should unborn life be valued than a recreational drug! And yes, I am aware that Federal officials have thus far largely ignored the States thumbing their nose at them when it comes to their drug laws. They will not ignore this law. But that is all the more reason to fight for it...just as it was noble to fight to eradicate slavery, or Jim Crow, or any other unjust law that has been promoted throughout history, regardless of personal cost.

5: Finally, I urge everyone to remember that if we as a nation, or a state, hope to avoid God’s just judgment on us for the shedding of innocent blood, we must begin by repenting of the evil of abortion and taking action to support our prayers and our preaching. God is exceedingly gracious and forgiving, but cannot ignore injustice forever. Abortion leaves terrible scars on everyone involved, not just the innocent babies who never get to see the light. Since 1973, we have lost the equivalent of North Dakota’s population to abortion over 80 times, and left countless thousands of broken hearts and homes in its wake. Abortion has disproportionately affected minority communities, and targeted the disabled and vulnerable.

We as citizens and legislators of North Dakota must not think that, because we have only one abortion clinic, we are better off than larger states. Even one legalized murder, let alone the hundreds that take place here each year, is too many. Indeed, because we have only one clinic, we have a unique opportunity to make our state a sanctuary for the unborn. I know there are many loving families in our state ready to step in to minister to the needs of the families in this area, with adoption, pregnancy care, church support, and more. I will also say that we have a unique opportunity, with a Republican supermajority in the Legislature and a Republican Governor, to actually stand for the Republican

prolife platform with our actions, and not just our words. I prayerfully ask the Legislature to pass House bill 1313.