

HB 1313  
Testimony by Thea Lee  
01/26/2021

Bald eagle eggs and sea turtle eggs are protected by Federal Law. These laws set the precedence that the eggs are as valuable as the fully matured animals because they are indeed eagles and turtles. I propose that the same is true with human embryos or unborn children. They are humans and thus are as valuable as fully developed humans. Unborn children must be protected as the most vulnerable of humans.

House Bill No. 1313 protects both the unborn child and the mother.

Laws are made to establish boundaries between choices that are acceptable in society and those that are not. This bill establishes the fact that it is not acceptable to murder an unborn child.

This law does not say that all women who are considering abortion are criminals. Women that are in a situation to consider such a choice are in a very vulnerable situation. This law will protect them from making a very destructive choice that would saddle them with inner turmoil for the rest of their lives. The decision to abort an unborn child is a decision that appears to make a bad situation go away. However, the murder of the unborn child creates an even worse situation that causes the woman to then live in shame, depression, and inner turmoil. This law establishes that the decision to murder an unborn child is not an acceptable choice. This is what laws do – they establish what choices in our society are acceptable. An example of this is the law that says it is illegal to steal. Say you have a mother with no money and her children are hungry. There are social programs established to aid her with feeding her family. (That is one responsibility of society: to provide social programs to help the vulnerable.) So, she has a choice to seek out help, or she has the choice of stealing to feed her family. The laws we have against stealing show her clearly what is the best choice to make. She is not a criminal because she and her children are hungry. She needs help. We have social programs to help women who are in the situation of dealing with an unwanted pregnancy. This law establishes that those programs are the healthy, good choice; and that abortion is a destructive, dangerous choice.

Adoption is a choice that promotes families and empowers the woman with an unwanted pregnancy to turn a bad situation into a positive, celebratory situation. Often in our society we seem to think that our personal comfort and pleasure should be the only factor behind decisions. The opposition has the argument, “My body, my choice.” However, the unborn child is not actually a part of the woman’s body, it is a separate individual. The unborn child is growing inside of the woman but it is not actually a piece of her. Pregnancy is a 9-month inconvenience. For 9 months you sacrifice your personal comfort for the life of another person. This is honorable and good. What has happened to morals, character, and integrity? Why is it that we do not see that sacrifice for the good of another person is an honorable trait and one to be celebrated? We celebrate the men and women in the military for the sacrifice they give every day for the protection of our country. Just as we celebrate the sacrifices of the military, we should celebrate the sacrifices of a woman to give her child life. On 01/21/21, my family finalized the adoption

of our youngest child, Cedar. Adoption is a wonderful option, and one that creates love and life...not death and shame.

The opposition is going to tell you that there are medical reasons that warrant ending a pregnancy. My daughter, Cedar, was born with Tetralogy of Fallot (a congenital heart condition) and Down Syndrome. The opposition is going to tell you that she should have been murdered in the womb. That is criminal! They may also say that she is an economic burden on society because she has had 3 open-heart surgeries. Each surgery cost \$250,000.00. The next time one of you needs surgery, we would not consider killing you instead of helping you, would we? We should not do the same for an unborn child.

There is one aspect of this bill that I strongly disagree with and that is the line that leaves room for murdering an unborn child to save the life of the pregnant woman. Again, what happened to sacrifice? I would gladly die in a second's notice to save the life of any of my children...or any child for that matter! This is an ethical dilemma, choosing one life over another! Not acceptable in my mind.

So overall, I am in agreement with this bill. There needs to be a boundary set on this issue that protects both the unborn child and the mother from a situation where one is murdered and the other is a murderer. There are healthy, good options that allow both to live healthy, happy lives. Our state needs to promote healthy, happy lives; not murder.

Please vote in favor of HB 1313.

Respectfully,

Thea Lee  
8960 69<sup>th</sup> Ln NW  
Powers Lake, ND 58773  
(701) 339-1458



***Cedar Rose Lee – Every Life Matters!!!!***