

Testimony
HB 1313
Human Services Committee
January 26, 2021

Chair Weisz, Vice Chair Rohr, and members of the Committee,

My name is Erica Hofland and I am an Obstetrician and Gynecologist in Dickinson. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 1313. I am asking this committee to give this bill a Do Not Pass recommendation.

I grew up in Dickinson and after graduation completed my undergraduate education at the University of North Dakota. I then completed my medical school education at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. For the last 7 years I have been a practicing Obstetrician and Gynecologist in Dickinson and have provided care to women throughout southwest North Dakota.

HB 1313 is concerning for many reasons, but at the forefront is that HB 1313 inhibits honest discussion and education about medical information. As a physician it is my duty to ensure patients are aware of risks and benefits of various medications, procedures, and interventions. Another of my roles is to help patients navigate the medical system and inform them where various care is administered and how to access it. My profession requires me to be forthcoming with knowledge. To withhold this information significantly degrades the physician-patient relationship and trust in the medical field generally.

To do my job ethically, it is imperative that I be able to discuss the full range of reproductive healthcare options available to patients—including abortion. HB 1313 would impede my ability to do that by criminalizing individuals who offer aid to patients seeking abortion.

No patient should ever have to question if they have been denied instruction or knowledge of a topic nor turn to less reputable sources to fill in their knowledge gaps. I strongly urge a Do Not Pass recommendation on HB 1313.

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