Subject:

Written Testimony for House Bill 1313

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House Human Services Committee

North Dakota State Capitol 600 E. Boulevard Ave. Bismarck, ND 58505

Mr. Chairman & Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 1313. I sincerely believe this is one of the most important pieces of legislation that you will ever consider. Perhaps the most important.

In one respect, I realize that this is not really an argument about abortion. I doubt any of us who support this bill are going to sway anyone on the committee from being pro-choice to pro-life. I wish that were the case, but I am realistic enough to know that it is not.

So, what am I hoping this bill will accomplish? First, I would like to see the North Dakota legislature reassert its authority over the issue of abortion. Second, I want to see our state become a leader in the effort to end the atrocity of legal abortion in our country.

In July of 2012, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia <u>expressed his view</u> that Roe v. Wade was not only based on a "lie", but that there is simply nothing in the United States Constitution prohibiting states from outlawing abortion. He's right. Furthermore, there's nothing in that founding document that authorizes the federal government to have anything to do with the issue of abortion.

I also agree with Judge Andrew Napolitano when <u>he referred to Roe v.</u>
<u>Wade</u> as the "most abominable decision" since Dred Scott v. Sanford, in which African Americans were determined not to be persons.

Last Friday marked 48 years since Roe v. Wade. Since that time, it is estimated that 62 million abortions have taken place. Throughout that course of time, advocates in the pro-life movement have worked tirelessly in hopes of reversing that decision. For those of you who truly believe these are unborn lives, I ask you this-- How much longer do we wait? How many more lives must be taken before we try a different approach?

I would suggest that we cannot wait any longer. It is time that the states reassert their authority on this issue. We need a state by state movement in order to build the momentum necessary to make this a lasting reality in the country. And North Dakota can lead out in the effort. HB 1313 is an opportunity to do that.

Finally, I have followed politics long enough to know how these things

sometimes work in the committee process. On issues like this, it is almost inevitable that someone will propose amendments as a means of gutting the intentions of the bill's sponsors or undermining their wishes. I would ask you to please refrain from doing that. There may well be amendments that Rep. Hoverson will be amenable to, but again, please limit it to those.

I ask that you give this a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you for your consideration. And may God bless you in the good work that you do on behalf of the people of North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Justin R. LaBar