

January 26, 2021

To: House Human Services Committee

Re: HB 1313

My name is Karin Boom and I am a resident of rural Marion, ND. I am submitting this memo in support of HB 1313.

I believe North Dakota has a firm foundation of family, faith and a strong sense of right and wrong. North Dakotans go the extra mile to do what is right and this bill gives us the opportunity to right a wrong.

Modern science, technology and medicine have all demonstrated more clearly than ever that individual life begins at conception and that those individuals are infinitely complex and viable far earlier than we believed when Roe v. Wade was handed down.

Each of those lives should be fiercely protected by each of us in this state, as fiercely as we would protect each other.

I was a teen mom with an unplanned pregnancy and I went to an abortion facility to terminate that pregnancy so that I would not shame my family, myself and believing that 'my mistake' would not be compounded. For a number of reasons that I won't go into, that appointment was not able to be completed and I delivered my daughter. I also did not go through with an adoption plan so I was a single mom. I will NEVER regret the 'mistake', the glitches that prevented the abortion or raising her. She is the most amazing person and we are family.

I also have a very dear friend who is unable to have children and has lost multiple IVF pregnancies. She grieves each of those babies and we have no doubt that they were babies, even when they were little cell clusters in microscope photos. These are the little embryos that families treasure more than any earthly possession and go to great lengths and expense to create and preserve.

I have several other friends who are in years-long adoption processes because the babies are not available and they are told that most moms abort or keep their babies.

Morally, we have an obligation to support the life of every North Dakotan. This would be an essential first step, followed by coming along side those moms who have unplanned pregnancies to facilitate decisions they will make for themselves and their babies.

There is not a point on a line where we are authorized to determine who lives and who dies, it is not up to us.

This is a Solomonic decision given to those of you who truly treasure our littlest lives and will rise up and defend them.

I ask you to set aside the normalcy bias you carry and reach into your hearts and study the amazing facts in science and medicine and support this bill before you. Please give a do pass recommendation and give it a full opportunity for decision.

Thank you for bringing this up.

Karin Boom

Marion ND