

SB2323

Mr. Chairman and senators

At the core, we all have a basic human need to feel safe. We are pretty fortunate to call North Dakota home. Our state is ranked #6 in the nation for personal & resident safety and #2 for financial safety. It's safe to say that North Dakota checks a lot of boxes when it comes to protecting ourselves and our loved ones. But there's always more to do.

Our governor tells us that projects like Vision Zero are supposed to take on important meaning for our residents. This traffic safety strategy has a mission to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries caused by motor vehicle crashes. Most motor vehicle fatalities and serious injuries are preventable, so we're committed to cultivating a culture of personal responsibility. Our representatives and department leaders continue to look for ways to reduce preventable deaths when it comes to road safety, home and community safety, and workplace safety. Because any number other than zero is too high.

And there, in the middle of the plan is a place that attracts protestors, rioters, plugged sidewalks, people honking horns and yelling obscenities at the demonstrators. 310 police calls since 1989 according to the Fargo Police Department. A literal powder keg ready to go off at any time.

Our taxpayers have invested millions of dollars on a failed main street initiative. An initiative investing millions of dollars in an incompetent plan to have people shop downtown when there is danger on the streets. Millions of dollars wasted constructing streets that pass by eyesores. Squandering Millions of dollars in flood control to protect the constitutional right to an abortion. What kind of return on investment are our taxpayers getting?

Our opponents are against what they call, this unconstitutional legislation, which would harm North Dakotans by denying them access to abortion care. No where in this legislation does it call for the denial of access to abortion care. Our opponents want to protect the right to access safe and legal abortion and comprehensive reproductive health care services, while protestors line the streets

and cause mayhem. No where in this legislation does take away this right. Our opponents say that we are attempting to close the Red River Women's Clinic, the only remaining abortion clinic in North Dakota, and prevent new clinics from opening. Nothing can be farther from the truth. In fact, that is ludicrous.

Our opponents do not understand the term nonrecurring use. They say that our legislation does not explain how preventing maintenance on the state's existing clinic furthers a legitimate state interest. We cannot close down an existing facility, but over time, the smart facility can make a plan to move to a safer place. A place that ensures the safety of the citizens that are paying for the vision of zero deaths.

Our opponents state that the only possible rationale for SB 2323 is the desire to prohibit abortion by closing North Dakota's sole abortion clinic. Has anybody asked why there is only 1 facility in the state of North Dakota? I can only relate this fact to the will and the desire of the people in North Dakota. If 99.9% of the people in North Dakota are opposed to abortion, why should the people of north Dakota be forced by outsiders to have abortion as a whole in the state.

Remember, there are 47 hospitals in North Dakota, 3 of which are located near population centers. These facilities can perform a procedure right now for the welfare of the mother and or child. Our opponents are using buzzwords like unconstitutional and they have not proven that this legislation creates an undue burden on the right to abortion. Their argument is full of scare tactics and holes.

Isn't it interesting that the discussion used to be about the women's right to choose about her body. In recent times it has become apparent that we have killings of the child outside the womb. That shows you that the real argument is that our opponents want us to confirm and to say that it is acceptable to kill babies on demand. If this is really about women's health, we have stated already that there are 47 hospitals in North Dakota that can perform a procedure to protect the woman and the baby at the present time.