



**Testimony  
SB 2150  
Human Services  
March 14, 2023**

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

My name is Katie Christensen, and I am the North Dakota State Director of External Affairs for Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota Action Fund. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 2150.

Planned Parenthood North Central States provides advocacy, education, and health services, including expert reproductive health care, across our five-state region. At our Moorhead health center, over 60% of our patients are residents of North Dakota. We have tens of thousands of supporters throughout the state. Planned Parenthood is here to ensure all people have the information and the means to make free and responsible decisions about whether and when to have children. Our mission affirms human rights to reproductive health care and freedom.

If passed, SB 2150 would ban nearly all abortions in North Dakota. States with adequate access to abortion have lower maternal mortality rates, lower infant death rates, and improved prenatal care access. Furthermore, states with similar abortion exceptions such as SB 2150 have scared medical professionals from providing care and placed pregnant people in dangerous situations.

If this bill were enacted, any healthcare provider who performed an abortion could be imprisoned for up to 5 years and/or face a fine up to \$10,000. Physicians are ethically required to ensure their patients receive the most appropriate and effective care, yet if passed, this law would put doctors in a place where they must choose between malpractice and a felony. Politicians have no place controlling care provided by licensed medical experts.

Furthermore, the authors of this bill claim to provide an exception for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest; however, this exception only applies in the earliest stages of pregnancy before many people even know they are pregnant. Due to this short timeframe, the exception is basically useless. Additionally, it is well documented that when a person in an abusive relationship is unable to access abortion, they are more likely to remain in contact with the abuser thus putting themselves and their children at risk.

The Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota Action Fund strongly urges a Do Not Pass recommendation on SB 2150. If enacted, SB 2150 would limit pregnant people from accessing comprehensive reproductive health care while intimidating physicians from providing the care that they are trained to deliver. North Dakotans deserve better.

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