



**Testimony
SB 2150
Judiciary Committee
January 16, 2023**

Chair Larson, Vice Chair Paulson, and members of the Committee,

My name is Katie Christensen, and I am the North Dakota State Director of External Affairs for Planned Parenthood North Central States. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony 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 activists and supporters throughout the state. Our education team reaches more than 500 people each year through programming, trainings, and community presentations. 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, and 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 strong access to abortion have lower maternal mortality rates, lower infant death rates, improved prenatal care access, and higher contraception uptake. Furthermore, states with similar abortion exceptions such as SB 2150 have scared medical professionals from providing care and placed pregnant people in dangerous situations. Access to abortion care is supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans including North Dakotans who soundly rejected a ballot measure that would have banned abortion in 2014.

Additionally, 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 who believe that providing an abortion would be in the best interest of the health or life of their patients would be prohibited from doing so except in extremely narrow circumstances. 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. North Dakotans deserve better.

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.

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