

Amirah Hurst
Testimony on SB 2150
Jan 16, 2023

Good afternoon legislators,

My name is Amirah Hurst & I'm currently a high school student attending Red River in Grand Forks, ND. I'm here today to urge members of the council to vote in opposition of SB 2150.

Recently, the question of abortion has been on everyone's mind. When is life determined? Is abortion healthcare? What constitutes the right to a safe abortion? I'm sure the majority of you are already set on your belief surrounding abortion, therefore I'm not here to change your view. Instead I invite you to look outside yourself and do your job as politicians and realize how harmful this bill is to women of all ages, race, and socioeconomic statuses across our state.

Six weeks seems like enough time for a woman to find out she's pregnant, right? Wrong. There are many errors in the proposed bill, specifically section 3b of the Section 1 Amendment which essentially changes the deadline of an abortion (for special cases) to six weeks or less. Typically, women don't realize the possibility of pregnancy until a missed period, which is based off of a regular menstrual cycle (28 days). Doctors count the age of a pregnancy from the first day of your last menstrual cycle. Meaning by the time a woman misses her period & finds out they are pregnant they are already 4 weeks pregnant. Leaving the woman with only two weeks to make a decision. This is the best case scenario, ignoring the irregularities in women's menstrual cycles. A 2019 study showed that only 13% of women have a "regular" 28-day cycle. Meaning if their period has not arrived "on time", they may not notice until it's been a week late now leaving them with only one week. Such variability in cycles indicates that a six week time frame is not practical for even the detection of pregnancy, let alone the decision making of whether or not to go through with an abortion. Being six weeks pregnant does not give you six weeks to have an abortion.

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Abortions will not end, regardless of the laws aiming to do so. Unsafe abortions will continue & the morality of pregnant women will increase especially in impoverished populations of our community. It has been exemplified in many other countries with abortion bans. Look beyond your own beliefs and objectively look at how damaging the passing of this bill is. It has been shown time and time again. For the sake of liberty and justice for all promised to US citizens, please do not let history repeat itself.

Thank you for your time and please make the right decision in voting “Do Not Pass” on SB 2150.

-Amirah Hurst

Grand Forks, ND.