Senate Judiciary Committee
Senate Bill 2150

Andrew Alexis Varvel

Peace Garden Room North Dakota State Capitol January 16, 2023 2:30PM

Madame Chairman Larson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel. I live in Bismarck.

Some of the most important pieces of legislation are so-called “housecleaning bills” that make major changes while not seeming to make a big fuss. This looks like one of them.

Yet, this legislation confuses me.

This bill repeals our state's ban on sex-selective abortion. Why?

This bill repeals our state's ban on dismemberment abortion. Why?

This bill repeals our state's ban on killing fetuses with Down's Syndrome. Why?

This bill repeals our state's ban on killing fetuses based on a genetic abnormality. Why?

The bill repeals our state's ban on killing fetuses after twenty weeks. Why?

Granted, I have never been fond of Century Code sections 14-02.1-05.1 and 14-02.1-05.2, which ban abortion once a heartbeat is found. I have long regarded the acquisition of human morphology and the ability to feel pain to be far more important than a heartbeat.

And that reminds me – I am still disappointed that North Dakota has still yet to pass any law requiring anaesthesia during abortions, both for the mother's comfort and to ensure that when unborn children get killed, they get euthanized in the most humane manner possible.

Hopefully, this bill is a work in progress. If it comes out of this committee in substantially the same form as what I am seeing now, it would probably deserve a DO NOT PASS on balance.

Thank you.

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