Senate Judiciary Committee

SB 2150

Jan 16, 2023

Rebecca Matthews

Chairperson Larson, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I am Rebecca Matthews and I am here today in opposition of Senate Bill 2150

Over 15 years ago during my 3rd pregnancy I found out I was expecting identical twin girls with a shared placenta. I was about to face new terminology like twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome, velamentous cord insertion, placental share, placental laser surgery and cord ligation. I learned to lean on my Maternal Fetal Medicine doctor and Fetal Surgeon staff to understand all the medical options available to me for the most optimal outcome. I leaned on my long-time OB/GYN as she knew me, my husband, and family best. I am here once again as I was in 2013, to tell this story to the members of the legislature who have decided that legislation is needed to come between myself and my medical team. During my pregnancy, I am the most grateful that I could navigate all the options available to me without this interference.

In 2007, we left an out-of-state Fetal Care Center with a recommendation of bed rest and contemplation before making the decision to terminate one twin to save the other. That time was a living hell that I cannot even describe to you. Time spent in prayer. Time spent with my four- and six-year-old. Time wondering what the next day would bring. Sadly, I lost both twins that week and I delivered them still born.

My lived situation is a perfect example of how abortion is not a black and white issue and law cannot be written to adequately cover all the grey areas and possible situations doctors and patients face daily.

As a woman from Western North Dakota. I value my independence, my faith, and not having the government mingle in my medical decisions. I stand for those North Dakotans who will be in my shoes during a difficult pregnancy. That they continue to have the right to make their own medical choices without government intrusion. I ask you to vote no and stay out the business of medicine.