

Chairwoman Roers and Members of the Senate State & Local Gov. Committee –

My name is Sierra Heitkamp and I am the Legislative Director for North Dakota Right to Life. I am here today to represent the interests and legislative initiatives of their base comprised of 3700 citizens across the state of North Dakota.

On January 22, 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued a presidential proclamation designating the third Sunday of January each year to be recognized as National Sanctity of Human Life Day. For almost 40 years, we have celebrated this meaningful day and have progressed this idea further in our state. For example, from January 16th – 22nd of this year, pro-life organization have worked together on promoting educational and events in North Dakota as “Respect Life Week.”

As you can see, our members and aligned interests are already dedicating time each year “...to celebrate the right-to-life, reaffirm the dignity and value of every human being, and to give thanks for the gift of life,” just as this bill says.

I ask this committee today for a ***Do Pass recommendation on HB 1173*** in order to solidify the values of North Dakotans as we continue to promote and encourage life at all stages.

Thank you for your time today and I will now stand for any questions that the committee may have.



Sincerely,

Sierra M Heitkamp

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NDRL Legislative Director