

January 30, 2025

Chairwoman Larson and members of Judiciary,

I am writing on behalf of myself as an individual citizen of North Dakota asking that you oppose HB 1373.

Though I feel strongly about a woman's right to do what she believes is best for herself and her family, I am not asking you to oppose HB 1373 based on this right. I am asking you to oppose this bill because North Dakota is facing an extreme shortage of medical providers.

I have been very fortunate to get to know many medical students, medical residents, and professionals in the healthcare field over the last several years. Most of these young professionals are not from North Dakota and many are in the field of women's health. And sadly, most of them will not stay in North Dakota because of bills like HB 1373.

Medical professionals do not want to work in a state where they could face criminal charges for doing their jobs. This is not a guess or based on my opinion – I have been told this by young professionals who, quite frankly, would never consider staying in North Dakota with such lack of support from governing officials to do their job as they were trained to.

No matter how many exceptions are included in this bill, there is always room for interpretation when faced with criminal charges. Each of you has occupations outside of your elected positions and I ask you this: Would you want politicians questioning your job performance and possibly pressing charges against you if they thought you made a mistake? I know I wouldn't.

All states are facing this shortage of healthcare workers, but North Dakota already faces challenges getting healthcare workers here and also faces a maternity desert so why would you add another challenge by passing HB 1373? Please don't do your citizens the disservice of making healthcare even more difficult to obtain.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Anderson

Burlington, ND