

Dear Members of the House,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1373, which seeks to impose restrictions on reproductive rights within the state of North Dakota. As a concerned citizen, I believe this bill undermines the fundamental rights of individuals to make personal decisions about their reproductive health and freedom.

At the heart of this legislation is the assumption that the state should have greater authority over personal, medical decisions that should remain between a patient and their healthcare provider. House Bill 1373 seeks to impose unnecessary and restrictive barriers to reproductive health services, which could disproportionately impact women, particularly those from marginalized communities, low-income families, and rural areas who may already face challenges accessing adequate healthcare.

By limiting access to abortion services and further restricting reproductive healthcare, this bill would harm North Dakota residents in profound ways. It would not stop people from seeking reproductive care; instead, it would force many to travel out of state, often at great personal and financial cost, or resort to unsafe methods. This will only increase the risk of physical harm, psychological distress, and socioeconomic inequality.

Additionally, the right to make decisions about one's own body is a fundamental aspect of personal freedom. Forcing individuals to carry pregnancies against their will, especially in cases of rape, incest, or severe health complications, is an unacceptable infringement on bodily autonomy. House Bill 1373 disregards the personal and medical circumstances that may require an individual to make decisions in their own best interests.

Furthermore, North Dakota is already facing significant challenges when it comes to healthcare accessibility, especially in rural areas. Rather than imposing additional burdens on reproductive healthcare, we should focus on increasing access to comprehensive family planning, contraception, and sex education to prevent unwanted pregnancies in the first place.

The restrictions proposed in House Bill 1373 are not only harmful to the physical and mental health of North Dakota residents, but they also undermine the state's commitment to personal freedom and choice. It is crucial that we protect the right of individuals to make decisions regarding their reproductive health in a way that is safe, accessible, and free from political interference.

I urge you to reconsider this bill and to prioritize policies that protect and expand access to reproductive healthcare for all North Dakotans. Our state should be a place where individuals are empowered to make their own healthcare decisions without fear of unnecessary governmental intrusion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kayla Darling  
Minot, ND