My name is Ben Zeisloft. I am a journalist, an anti-abortion activist, and most importantly a Christian who lives in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I am writing to encourage the passage of House Bill 1373, also known as the North Dakota Prenatal Equal Protection Act.

In my work covering the battle over abortion in America over the past several years as a reporter, both before *Roe* was overturned and after *Dobbs* was handed down, I can attest that the single greatest blind spot among anti-abortion Christians and conservatives in our current context is the self-induced abortion crisis. Many of us still view abortion as happening at Planned Parenthood or similar surgical abortion centers, when in reality abortion increasingly happens in the privacy of the home, since mothers can simply order abortion pills rather than endure the inconvenience and shame of traveling to an abortion mill to murder their children.

Almost two-thirds of abortions in our nation now happen <u>by means of abortion pills</u>, according to data from multiple sources. That phenomenon includes the massive number of abortion pills sent to mothers through the mail, <u>including in states like North Dakota</u> with laws that claim to ban abortion, but instead grant immunity to mothers who willfully choose to murder their babies.

While some pro-life organizations try to address the self-induced abortion crisis with bills that specifically address abortion pill providers, merely targeting one method of prenatal homicide will simply ensure that North Dakota is unprepared when the next popular method emerges. In my work as a reporter and activist, I have paid close attention to the online chatter from abortion supporters, and they are already pioneering new ways for mothers to self-induce their abortions beyond abortion pills, even by rediscovering the herbal mixtures used by ancient shamans to murder preborn babies. The pro-death pharmaceutical cartels would likewise jump at the opportunity to bring new methods of abortion beyond the abortion pill to the marketplace.

House Bill 1373 would address all of these issues, from the self-induced abortion crisis to the reality that new methods of self-induced abortion will always emerge, once and for all by simply establishing equal protection of the laws for preborn babies made in the image of God.

If the state of North Dakota merely applies the exact same homicide and assault laws that protect born people to protect preborn people as well, without exceptions for mothers who willfully choose to murder their innocent preborn babies, then lawmakers will not need to find new and creative ways to regulate other methods of prenatal homicide. More importantly, they will be affirming what God already says about preborn babies, namely that they are fully human and equal in value with all other human beings, in the laws of the state of North Dakota.

I and so many others long for the day when abortion is abolished. Beyond my work as a journalist, I have ministered for six years outside of various abortion mills in Philadelphia on the weekends, and I have seen thousands of parents make the decision to murder their babies. As a civil official appointed by God to wield the sword of justice, you have not only the glorious opportunity, but the distinct duty, to obey God and remove the absurd portions of North Dakota law that treat preborn babies like subhumans. Jesus Christ, the risen and ascended King of Kings, requires your obedience, and you will answer for your decision on House Bill 1373 on the day of judgment. I urge you to honor God and love your neighbor by supporting House Bill 1373.