

Greetings to the esteemed legislature of North Dakota. My name is Grant Ross. I believe in the importance of sharing my story with those listening, so that you can understand the significance of passing House Bill 1373, also known as the North Dakota Prenatal Equal Protection Act. I am writing to you today on behalf of the unborn children that have already been ended as well as those whose lives hang in the balance. Their lives are in fact in your hands, and so too is the soul of your state. I write on behalf of the aforementioned because my unborn life was also once in the hands of another, who had been advised it would be best to sacrifice me for her own safety. My umbilical cord was wrapped around my neck, and the doctor said that if I did not untangle it on my own, he would have to perform a risky cesarean section. God bless my mother, who in her selflessness chose to bear the responsibility of the parent to the child, despite the potential cost. Many would argue that it would have been “her right to choose” had she decided to deliver me into the hands of death for her own safety, but I ask you to consider the choice of a child. Certainly, it is not to be born, as they are not there to give their thoughts on their conception. Children are brought into the world without choice, and their only choice from the time they are conceived can be seen as they grow. It is the choice of all life, to continue on for as long as it can. This is the natural desire of all living things, and only the evil of the world can create a desire to end life. The world is full of exceptions, but not so when it comes to this matter. There is not one unborn person that desires to die. Evil is what creates the desire for the death of the innocent, and there is none more innocent than the unborn.

My mother was faced with such an evil choice. The time of my birth drew close after she received her recommendation to consign me to the slaughter, and I still had not turned to unwrap the cord from my neck. My mother, who I can now love for her mercy until we part ways in this life, was adamant that whatever happened to her would not change her love for me. She loved me even before seeing me, and she was willing to give her life for mine. I would ask each person that hears my words to consider if they wish to live in a state that supports the selfless or embraces the selfish. Do you want to live in a state that creates parents who would give their lives for their children, or a state that creates parents that would give their children for their lives? The law of the land is a schoolmaster, and it teaches us what our people believe about themselves. Does North Dakota believe that all life is sacred, or does it believe that each life is only to be used and consumed for the benefit of others? Evil exists in this world, and as I said, it leads people to the conclusion that sometimes the innocent must die for others’ sake. This is a deception. There are numerous reasons argued in many different ways that sometimes it is necessary for innocent life to be taken. The health of another, the future of another, the potential of a hard life for the innocent. All arguments of this nature are made in the dark. They are made in the

dark and evil places that our souls are forced to walk through in this life. All those who live find themselves in these places at some point in their lives. The innocents that may be spared on the decision today will also inevitably find themselves in these dark places in their lives, but it is in this conclusion that one finds the answer to the question of the sacrifice of the innocent. If we allow the sacrifice of the innocent, the darkness infecting our worlds grows greater. The people that may argue against this legislation are in darkness, and the light of the innocent shining in the world is what can bring them out. The children whose lives are at stake today are needed to help the very people who would snuff them out.

In this country, the right to life is foremost in our laws. It is a principle upon which our society stands. A society without a right to life is a society that falls into darkness. Those against this legislation seek unknowingly their own desolation. They are enthralled and blinded by deception, to the point that they would argue there is no legal right to life. They would argue that my mother had every right to snuff me out like a candle, on the chance that I might burn her. I tell you that each person is a candle, their design is to bring light and warmth to the world. Those too accustomed to the dark fear the light and the warmth they need. Some may say that the darkness is their right. Even if I was willing to accept that, I could never accept the idea that their desire to embrace evil permits the premature end to the life of another. With every loss of another innocent unborn person, the law of this land is cast aside, and the state gets darker. If we do not have a right to life from our conception, if the unique DNA that belongs to only us from the time our existence sparks into being cannot be legally defended, it is only a matter of time until there aren't enough lights in the world to shine on the truth of our value as human beings. I ask this legislature to consider the consequences of this legislation as though their very future depends on it. Think of the innocence you have seen in the world and ask what you would give to make sure it was protected. Offer your children this protection. Face the evils of this world and embrace your responsibility as the carriers of our ancestors' light. Each of us is here today only because another protected us from death and darkness. It is now your turn to decide if you will embrace life, or if you will consign the future to death.