

Do Pass testimony of Rob Muntz,
Citizen of North Dakota
for HB 1373 of the 69th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

Dear Chairman Ruby, Vice Chair Frelich, and Members of the House Human Services Committee,

I am writing today as a citizen of North Dakota and as a Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS OB/Gyn, AB). I hold registries with the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS) and am licensed by the State of North Dakota (License #408) to perform diagnostic ultrasounds. This gives me the unique perspective of seeing the dawn of life on a daily basis.

Before describing what I see in early first trimester ultrasounds, I believe its important to understand the parameters of death. North Dakota Century Code Chapter 23-06.3 states in part: "An individual who has sustained ... irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions..., is dead." To me, logic would dictate that identification of circulatory function would prove life and to that point, I have personally visualized & quantified circulatory function in a fetus as early as 5w 2d gestation. My ability to verify viability of a pregnancy is limited more by technology, than fetal development.

It is perplexing to me that we use different standards to prove an individual's status of alive or dead. From the moment of conception, everything that baby needs to develop and thrive is available to it. Not recognizing this potential is no different than euthanizing individuals based simply on age even though technology exists to support their life.

Each baby is an individual, their genetics dictate that, and I believe that at the moment of conception they have the right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness that every other individual has guaranteed to them under the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution and Article I of the North Dakota Constitution.

I am asking that you give HB 1373 a Do Pass

Thank you,

Rob Muntz

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