

## **Testimony in Support of ND HB 1373**

My name is Brittany Poppe, and I am writing to you today to support HB 1373. I am writing this from the point of view of a woman who has lived through the pain and regret of an abortion. When I was 17 years old, I went against my parent's wishes and chose to end the life of my unborn child, and was able to do this legally due to the laws in place. I so deeply wish this would have never been possible for me, as it would have saved me from years of anguish and turmoil.

I know firsthand that abortion is a decision that can leave a forever wound. I have carried the emotional and spiritual weight of what I did for the last 14 years. I have also experienced physical complications due to my abortion that have affected my pregnancies with my living children. I was told that abortion was the best option for me, but what I didn't fully understand then—and what I wish I had known—was that abortion does not take away the consequences of that choice. It only adds more pain, more grief, and more regret.

The child I lost at my own hand that day had the fundamental right to life. I now realize that I had a responsibility to protect that life, not end it. I believe that every unborn child deserves dignity, regardless of the circumstances surrounding their conception. The truth is, every single life is valuable from the moment it is created, and that life deserves the same legal protection as any other.

HB 1373 is an important step toward acknowledging and protecting all human life. This bill recognizes that every human being—whether unborn or born—deserves equal protection under the law. I support this bill not only because I have come to see the value of all life, but because I believe that no one should ever feel coerced into making a decision that can cause so much lasting harm. No young woman, or young girl like I once was, should be left alone to face such a devastating choice without understanding the full extent of what it means. Ending the life of a human being should never be a solution to a “problem.”

As a woman who has walked the painful road of regret, I want to encourage you to protect the unborn. Abortion should not be a solution. Instead, we should offer women a path forward, one that allows them to choose life, and to choose hope, not murder.

I am writing to ask you to support HB 1373 because I believe that every human being, regardless of their circumstances, has value and should be protected to the fullest extent of the law.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Brittany Poppe