Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the time you have spent serving our state and encouraging good laws to be passed in this legislative session. House Bill 1373 is a VERY good law. It simply clarifies that all humans deserve to be protected from harm and murder, regardless of their development status.

The Law is a teacher. It teaches society what is acceptable in culture and what isn't. Unfortunately we have become a society that accepts the disregard of small human lives based solely on if a mother wants them, and not on the fact that they are their own independent person deserving of protection.

HB 1373 is a great step in renewing the value of life in North Dakota.

Some false information about this bill is stating that is would restrict miscarriage care, IVF, or a situation to save the life of a mother. None of those instances are not what HB 1373 is about. Women can absolutely still get the healthcare they need.

A miscarriage is the unfortunate and natural death of a child's life in the womb. It is heartbreaking, but is absolutely not the same as an elective abortion. Abortion is the INTENTIONAL ending of a human life in the womb. They are not the same and have never been the same. Death happens every day, but Murder is what is outlawed. HB 1373 is simply clarifying that a woman can NOT kill her own child in the womb. She cannot kill her 2 day old, 2 month old, or 2 year old child, outside of the womb, so why should she be able to kill her 6 week old child inside the womb? The child is his or her own person deserving protection.

For too long, many pro-lifers (me included!) have only looked at clinics like Planned Parenthood as the "enemy" trying to perform as many abortions as possible. We have made it illegal for medical professionals to perform abortions in North Dakota (which is great!) But as long as there are no consequences for the actual woman seeking the abortion, the number of abortions will remain the same. Again, the law is a teacher. It teaches what is right and wrong. It is wrong to intentionally kill a child (in the womb, or outside of it) and it only makes sense to make laws that teach that.

Providing equal protection to all our citizens is the only logical, loving, and reasonable way to end the mass numbers of abortions still happening legally in North Dakota.

Please vote YES on HB 1373.

Thank you for your time,

Grace Deal Berthold, ND District 38