

Dear Chairman Ruby and members of
the House Human Services,

I am writing to you as a post abortive
mother and current resident of North
Dakota.

I was born and raised here, and my
childhood can be best explained as your
'average' childhood for a child with
divorced parents up until the age of 12.
At the age of 15, I found myself in an
unplanned pregnancy and panicked. I
disclosed my pregnancy to my high
school nurse who informed me that I
had ruined my life and future not only for

myself, but for the father of my child. My high school nurse told me of all the reasons I could not thrive in my future and told me that I MUST have an abortion. I used the phone in her office to make a call to the closest abortion clinic which then was in Fargo, ND. The clinic staff informed me that I could have an abortion and that I would never have to tell my parents through a process called judicial bypass. What this means is that I could go and testify in front of a judge at the age of 15 and plead why I was mature enough to make this decision and why I didn't want to tell my parents. The truth is, I didn't want to tell my parents because I didn't want to be held accountable for the choice, I had made of having sex with my boyfriend and I began to believe there was no way

I could have a baby and still have a future. I walked alone to the courthouse on the date of my hearing and testified my 'circumstances' (which I now recognize as plain fear and panic) before a judge in which he deemed me 'mature enough' to make this decision on my own. May I ask you; can any minor testify before a judge and prove they are mature enough to purchase and consume alcohol? Obtain a driver's license? Vote? Get their ears pierced? Yet there I was at 15 years old being deemed mature enough to end the life of my child.....and it was approved. My parents lost their God given right to parent me, guide me, love me, and help not only me but their future grandchild in that moment. On that day, their grandchild was scheduled to die and

their daughter left traumatized, and there was nothing they could do to stop any of it because they didn't know a thing was transpiring. This process was far too easy for a child. My high school nurse was willing to write me a note excusing me from school on the day of my procedure so that I could be dropped off at school like any other day and my parents wouldn't be notified that I was missing class.

I arrived at the clinic and wasn't even sure how to fill out the forms as I had never been to a doctor's appointment without my mom present, how is that safe or healthcare? Yet there I was "mature enough" to choose death for my own very alive baby. At the moment of my abortion, I entered into a world of

darkness. For 22 years, I lived battling self-hatred, shame, regret, remorse, suffered depression and anxiety, and was metaphorically bleeding over every person I came in to contact with. There is nothing natural about a mother choosing death for her baby and the self-hatred led to promiscuity and additional unplanned pregnancies although I am pleased to share abortion was never again a choice I was willing to make. I was in weekly professional therapy services for 5 years consistently and thought I was as healed as I could get until I found true healing in January 2023 after attending a post abortive women's healing retreat. It is only after fully healing that I can now share my testimony of the ways my choice to end the life of my child was impacting me

and everyone around me without anyone ever knowing it. Had abortion been illegal at the time of my pregnancy, we would have one more beautiful soul on this Earth, and I wouldn't have had to live in the self-constructed prison I made for myself knowing an innocent life had ended, that I was guilty, and that the guilty were going unpunished. As to the lie of abortion being healthcare or a decision between a woman and her doctor allow me to be clear, never once did I speak with the doctor, nor did I see him/her up until they point, they walked in to end the life of my child on my behalf. There is no other medical condition in which one can conspire with a physician to end another person's life, we call that murder. Should a father choose death for his preborn baby, he

too would be charged with murder. Abortion is murder as it ends the life of a separate, distinct human being whose body is whole at the moment of conception. We either get serious about murder and stop giving exceptions to mothers committing this act or we allow them to live in self-made prisons in which the public also suffers without knowing it. My choice of abortion impacted every single part of my life and only after healing can I see that. Am I guilty of murder? Ultimately it was my follow through that ended the life of a distinct human being and admitting that truth is the only thing that set me free.

I'm writing to you in support of HB1373

and respectfully request that you would
render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

Respectfully,

Sadie Olson