

House Committee,

My name is Mikayla Hankey, and I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 1373. The question of when life begins is not complex—it begins at conception. From that moment, a new human life exists, with a unique and complete set of DNA that defines the person they will become. This is a biological fact, and it is imperative that the legislature upholds and communicates this truth.

Recognizing this truth can be difficult in a world where unintended pregnancies occur, where mistakes are made, and where unspeakable crimes such as rape and abuse tragically happen. However, the response to hardship and suffering should never be the taking of an innocent life. Two wrongs do not make a right, and abortion compounds the trauma rather than erasing it.

The only way a person can remain unaffected by abortion is if they are utterly convinced that they have not taken a life. But the reality remains—life begins at conception. Failing to acknowledge and uphold this truth has devastating consequences. Killing an unborn child does not heal the trauma of rape. It does not leave women unaffected, either physically or emotionally. As someone who has personally endured two miscarriages, I can attest to the deep and lasting emotional pain of losing a child. Abortion, far from being an easy solution, leaves many women grappling with profound regret and grief.

Some argue that abortion is a necessary option to avoid the hardships of parenthood, citing financial struggles, emotional strain, or systemic challenges like foster care. But the answer to these difficulties is not the destruction of innocent life. True care for women means offering real support—resources that empower them to carry their child to term, whether they choose to parent or pursue adoption. Our state must not justify abortion under the guise of compassion while failing to acknowledge its devastating consequences.

It is time for North Dakota to stand for truth and for life. We must invest in pregnancy centers that connect women with adoption agencies, counseling, financial assistance, and childcare. We must foster a culture where both mother and child are supported, where women are not abandoned to despair but empowered to choose life. The role of the legislature is to uphold what is right and true, and that means ensuring that women are given real choices—not the false promise that ending a life will erase their pain.

I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 1373. The decision you make is one of life and death, and history will remember whether you stood for truth or for convenience. Let us be a state that chooses life, not only for the unborn but for the mothers who need our support now more than ever.

Sincerely, Mikayla Hankey