

Dear Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services,

I have been residing in North Dakota since I was 4 years old. I can tell you that my upbringing was above average. I had parents who were married my entire life and very devoted to each other and their family. My father worked hard to support our family while my mother was a stay-at-home mom and ran the house and took care of us kids. I was the youngest of 3 older living siblings. I had one sister pass away from leukemia as a young child. I attended church, was baptized, confirmed and was very active in the youth group.

When I graduated from high school I could not wait to get out on my own. I wasn't gone from home long when I found myself in an unplanned pregnancy. I turned to the father of the baby, and he was not in support of having the baby. Next, I called my dad at work, knowing he would be my voice of reason. He told me I needed to call home and talk to both him and mom that night. That night, I called as recorded in my mom's diary, "At 9:18 tonight Tanya called, and told us that she was pregnant, we did not tell her what she wanted to hear, but that now was the TIME TO GET RID OF IT!" They told me that if he was not going to marry me that abortion was the only answer. That they were not going to help me

and that I was not capable of raising a baby on my own. This was 31 years ago this month and, at a time, when kids listened and respected what your parents said, or at least I did. So, the next day I met with my boyfriend, and he decided to make the appointment even though I pleaded with him not to. The appointment was made for 2 weeks later and every single night I was on the phone with my parents trying to get them to realize in my own way that I could do it. I could maybe change their minds or soften their hearts. The night before the abortion I even sent my mother roses, trying to change her mind. I had my abortion that forever changed my life 31 years ago. I wasn't offered any counseling, nor did I get to see my baby on an ultrasound. I was told it was pregnancy tissue, but little did I know that sound of the machine sucking my baby out would forever scar me! I can't go to the dentist without reliving it, because of the suction sound! The smell of the room would haunt me to this day! But to get back to them telling me that it was just pregnancy tissue, but then after sucking it out, the doctor would have to reassemble the baby he had just helped me murder! To make sure he had not left any limb behind....sick! If I only knew then what I know now!! They told me that while I was bawling on that table it was all going to be ok, no it wasn't! I suffered for 22 years in fear that someone was going to find out what I had done. I was depressed, ashamed, angry,

suffered with anxiety, and basically held myself hostage in my personal prison of hell. I finally sought out healing 9 years ago through a pregnancy help centers after abortion healing program. It is only after that program and healing that I have been able to share my testimony about how abortion truly affected me. Had an abortion been illegal at the time of my pregnancy, I know for a fact that my parents would never have suggested that I do it! I lived in a home where if I got a speeding ticket, I got grounded so I highly doubt they would support me or tell me to commit an illegal act of murder! And I would have had another beautiful child on this earth! And I would not have had to live in the self-made prison I had made for myself, knowing that I had killed my baby. An innocent life separate from mine, I had a part in ending and was guilty and was going unpunished by law. As to the lie of abortion being healthcare, there is no healthcare that purposely ends one life, and that's what abortion does! They came into the exam room and physically ended the life of another human being, two of us went in that day but only one very wounded mom left. There is no other medical condition in which a woman can conspire with a physician to end another person's life, we call that murder! If a father chose 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 need to get serious about murder and stop making exceptions to mothers committing abortion or we continue to let them live in their self-made prisons in which the public also suffer but don't know why! My choice to follow through with the with the coercion that I faced with my abortion still ends with the same result, I committed murder, and it changed every aspect of my life for 22 years of my life until I received healing. The only thing that has set me free is God's forgiveness and admitting my truth.

I am writing to you in support of HB1373