

House Human Services Committee Members,

I urge you to give HB 1373 a do pass recommendation.

I am a pastor in the Minot area, as well as the Chair of the District 3 Republicans.

The Declaration of Independence calls out three unalienable rights granted us by our Creator (**not** by the government). The first, most fundamental right is the right to life.

Although North Dakotans have eliminated abortion mills in our state, we have still not done enough in practical terms to eliminate the murder of unborn children in the womb by deterring at-home, non-surgical abortions. In Psalm 82:3, the Lord calls us to give justice to the weak and the fatherless. Who are the weakest but the unborn, who can do absolutely nothing to advocate for themselves? We must advocate for them.

Proverbs 6:16-17 tells us that the Lord hates the hands that shed innocent blood. Who are the most innocent but the unborn, who often need protection from their own mothers trying to murder them? We must protect them.

The murder of another innocent human has been forbidden and harshly punished by God since the beginning of humanity, with God's exile of Cain who murdered his brother Abel. The biblical command not to murder has never been rescinded.

Section 1 of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the US Constitution states the clear law of the land: "Nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

HB 1373 would extend equal protection of the law to every preborn person, something they have been unconstitutionally denied here for more than 50 years.

You all swore to uphold the Constitution when you took office; now is your opportunity and duty to do so. Moreover, Proverbs 11:1 teaches us that the Lord abhors dishonest scales. Not protecting the unborn equally has been a dishonest scale that the Lord hates. Now is your opportunity to correct this injustice.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Demme

Pastor, Grace Baptist Church of Minot; Chair, District 3 Republicans