

Human Services Committee

HB1373

February 5, 2025

Chair Ruby and members of the Committee,

My name is Hunter Medenwaldt, and I have been a North Dakota resident for my entire life. I completed my plumbing certification at North Dakota State College of Science, and now am pursuing my career here in Fargo. I am the oldest of 10 children in my family, and I am writing my testimony **in opposition** of House Bill 1373.

I understand that legislation like this is an attempt to lower the number of abortions in our state, but in all actuality, we know that they will still occur- legal or not. The only difference is that it will now be **unsafe** to the women in your state. Blatantly, reproductive care is healthcare. You are stripping women of their access to **safe** healthcare. We do have an obligation to care for the lives that are already here and living. Please understand the gravity of legislation like this retaining to the health of women in your state.

This bill does not take in to consideration the fact that accidents happen, condoms break, rape and incest occur, pregnancy isn't viable in the womb, the baby is miscarried by the body, and many, many, many other types of "special" scenarios. It is honestly cruel to implement legislation that strips women of their access to different types of reproductive care. There is too much of a gray area under this topic to write it in to **law**. The separation of church and state is so important in government, it prevents people from having to abide laws written due to religion. Not every person in North Dakota believes in Christianity, god, or god's will. A woman living in your state should not have to die because we wrote legislature based on the bible.

My fiancé and I have always loved the idea of starting a family, but we know that she is most likely going to face pregnancy related complications. **I will not lose my partner trying to have kids.** I'd rather just not have any children, or I would rather leave this state (assuming this bill passes). That is the reality legislation like this is going to bring to a lot of your families living here in North Dakota. They will either leave or we will see the population go down due to people deciding not to have families. Legislation like this will also make healthcare provider's leave because they cannot just do their jobs. This is not a black and white matter, so please do not pass into law legislation that makes it seem like it is. Do not restrict women's access to healthcare here.

Please vote "do not pass" on House Bill 1373.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Hunter Medenwaldt