

My name is Emily Mills and I live in Minot, North Dakota. As your constituent, I urge you to protect abortion access and our right to birth control. Listen to the people of North Dakota. Our community knows that access to safe and legal abortion is essential, and we demand that our elected representatives protect this right. Choosing to classify an abortion as murder, especially from the moment of conception, is absurd and dangerous. Women need the right to make our own healthcare decisions and the right to choose if we should carry a pregnancy to term. The members of the North Dakota legislature need to protect this right. The government does not force you to be an organ donor, it does not force you to be resuscitated upon your death, and it should not force you to have children. Children deserve better and the women of our state deserve better. Protecting access to abortion, birth control, and educational resources is the only way to protect life: the lives of the people in your state right now. The people who can not and should not be forced to give their body, mind, and life for another against their will.

It is easy to dismiss these concerns as the concerns of promiscuous women, women who use abortion as a regular form of birth control, and women who have no love for children. But I am not that woman and neither are the people who will suffer from this bill. The people who will suffer from this bill is a teenage girl trying to induce an abortion at home with a recipe she found online. Her parents will find her bleeding out on the floor and they'll wish she got to choose *her* life. It's a college student that doesn't party or do drugs. She gets good grades and has a job lined up after graduation. But she had sex with her boyfriend and the condom broke, and now she has to give up everything she worked for, go on government assistance to try to make ends meet, and she'll never get another chance because everyone wants to hire the new graduates and not the new moms. It's a woman who had a baby shower, decorated the nursery, and picked out her 3 favorite names, and then had a miscarriage. Now she's getting harassed by the police, accused of doing it on purpose, when she's never been more devastated. Will she go to prison if she can't prove she wanted that child? How hard does she have to cry for you to believe her? Can you live with her blood on your hands when you don't?

If you pass the bill, you are not protecting life, you are ending it. You're ending it slowly and painfully, strangling the life from women right here in your own state.

I urge you: do not pass this bill.