

Members of the House Human Services Committee,

I strongly urge you to recommend a 'do pass' for HB 1373. The 14th Amendment states that "no person shall be denied equal protection of the laws" and every preborn life in ND deserves this protection. You cannot deny that there is a living, growing organism that is also human within the womb, with unique DNA entirely separate from their mom. HB 1373 will reaffirm these protections that preborn humans rightly deserve and will criminalize the act of abortion moving forward. This simply subjects everyone to the same justice system equally and all offenses would be taken on a case by case basis, taking coercion, abuse, IVF, and miscarriages into consideration as completely separate issues (just like different types of murder and self defense are classified differently).

As the young mom of an unplanned 14 month old, having recently experienced pregnancy and motherhood has only strengthened my resolve that abortion is the greatest human rights violation of our generation. I do have empathy for pregnant women who feel terrified and unprepared, as I had similar thoughts. Abortion even crossed my mind due to how accessible the pill has become. But having met my daughter outside of the womb, and having researched and heard the extensive statistics and testimonies on how damaging abortion procedures are to both the physical and mental health of the women who undergo them, I could never in my right mind call abortion "healthcare." In fact, many women do not know what abortion procedures actually entail, nor do they know about the permanent toll it takes on their bodies and emotional health. Furthermore, many of the clinics operate in unsanitary conditions with under-trained staff, break protocols, have corrupt financial incentives, or withhold information from their patients. For the sake of both children and women, abortions and this abuse of our medical system needs to stop. If we want to protect women and the most vulnerable in our communities, we need to cease abortions and provide actual support for these new moms. This begins with criminalizing the practice of abortion and making them less accessible so it's not an option for desperate women making decisions based on fear.

In short, HB 1373 will guarantee that all humans are covered by an amendment already in place. If HB 1373 is not passed, then the 14th Amendment is not actually true.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,
Greta Lora