

Human Services Committee

HB1373

February 5, 2025

Chair Ruby and members of the Committee,

My name is Gina Hartog, and I have been a North Dakote resident since 1981. I am in my 60s, I have already had my children, but this bill is very relevant to my life. I am writing my testimony **in opposition of** House Bill 1373.

I have my own stories involving difficult pregnancy. My first child miscarried during the duration of my pregnancy. My body did not remove the baby from my uterus, so I received a DNC. I received a procedure that most likely would result in criminal charges to either myself or my doctor under a bill like this. That procedure was necessary to me, as my baby had already passed. Procedures like DNCs are vital to lives in our state, but legislation such as this would create several legal issues for doctors whose first concern should be their patient.

My concerns about this bill are out of care for my daughter, my nieces, my granddaughter, and the countless other women who will be negatively affected by legislation such as this. My nieces are reaching their “childbearing” ages, but my granddaughter is still very little. Legislation like this jeopardizes **my family’s** ability to receive medical care they may need. That I needed. House Bill 1373 is nothing but dangerous for the women and healthcare providers in this state. Legislation like this will ruin reproductive care here, resulting in high numbers of completely unnecessary deaths and a lack of OBGYN doctors. Doctors will not stay to work in a state that prohibits their ability to do their job.

Please do not make providing healthcare difficult in our state. Please do not criminalize something that women cannot control. Please do not pass dangerous legislation like this here in our state. **Please vote “do not pass” on House bill 1373.**

Sincerely,

Gina Hartog.