

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jackson Hankey. I am a citizen of North Dakota currently residing in West Fargo. I serve as a pastoral intern at a local church in Fargo, and am actively involved in a ministry that seeks to provide practical and spiritual help to parents intending to get abortions at the Red River Women's Clinic in Moorhead, MN.

I'm writing this letter as a testimony in support of HB 1373 and its efforts to recognize the full humanity of preborn children from the very moment of conception. I believe this issue is very simple despite the waves of argumentation that try to make it cloudy. If what exists at the moment of conception is in fact a human being, which is a truth that is undeniable from every angle that question can be approached, then it must follow that all the basic rights and protections that accompany the status of being human, must therefore be applied to those preborn human beings from the very moment of conception.

As to whether that question is approached from a religious/metaphysical perspective, a scientific perspective, or simply a rational/logical perspective, the same conclusion becomes clear in each case. The preborn child is a human being from the moment of conception.

This is clear from the testimony of God himself, who is the Creator and Author of life. It is made abundantly clear in the Scriptures that he has revealed to us and which are commonly called the Bible. Genesis 1:26 describes all of mankind as being created in the image and likeness of God, something that is said only of human beings, and which compels us to infinitely value all human life and treat every human being in accordance with all of the natural and inalienable rights which that entails. Furthermore, Psalm 127:3 describes children as a blessing from the Lord and a reward to those who brought them forth. Psalm 139:13 describes how God himself knits us together in the wombs of our mothers. Exodus 21:22-23 also clearly implies that preborn children are to be considered as full human lives worthy of legal protection and justice even in the womb.

Furthermore, modern science also demonstrates full humanity from the moment of conception, as at that very moment there is a totally unique and complete set of human DNA that is created, marking that baby with it's own human signature that makes them unique from every other human that has come before them or

will ever come after them. The only difference between us now and the moment we were conceived is the degree of development that we have experienced.

Furthermore, I believe that this matter is one that is simply intuitive to each of us (a reflection of the fact that we are inescapably made in the image of God). Essentially all agree that humans are unique and valuable beings and that humans have certain inalienable rights. Further, essentially all agree, when forced to consider it seriously, that our humanity is not dependent upon the factors which are usually given in support of abortion.

For example, who would argue that someone is more or less human based upon their degree of development? This would make a five year old somehow less human than a ten year old. Or who would argue that someone is more or less a human based upon their degree of dependence upon others for their existence? This would make elderly people as well as disabled people all of the sudden subhuman. Or who would argue that someone is more or less human based on their location? Or the circumstances by which they were conceived? Or, perhaps worst of all, who would argue that someone is more or less human based upon the degree to which they are wanted by others, or the degree to which we might consider them a burden or a blessing?

The truth is that none of us consider the variation of any of those factors to either increase or diminish the humanness of a human being, and as such, with all factors considered, this decision is a simple one. From the moment of conception, a new human life exists and therefore, any just society is obligated to recognize that human life, and therefore to provide to that human being all the rights and protections that would apply to any human being. That is why I'm so in favor of the passing of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Jackson Hankey