

Good morning, my name is John Eaton and I am a farmer in Fairmount, ND. I am writing in support of HB 1373 because I think that my state government should have a consistent and clear view of the rights of its citizens.

It is time to recognize what has always been true, that my children did not instantaneously gain human rights the moment they emerged from the birth canal.

If my children's rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness were endowed by their creator, does that not tie their rights to the fact of their creation?

You are all smart, well educated people. It takes discipline, rationality, cunning and wisdom to make it to the state legislature. All I am asking is that you use these same skills and abilities to recognize that the inalienable rights endowed by our creator are not bestowed upon us at birth, but are rather fundamentally tied to our identity as creatures.

This premise is already established within our laws:

N.D. Cent. Code § 12.1-17.1-02

(<https://ndlegis.gov/cencode/t12-1c17-1.pdf>)

1. A person is guilty of murder of an unborn child, a class AA felony, if the person:
 - a. Intentionally or knowingly causes the death of an unborn child;

The child spoken of above has not been born, and yet the state of North Dakota recognizes that they have a right to life, which shall not be infringed, on penalty of felony prosecution. How then can we reasonably deny this child personhood?

If, as the founders wrote, that our right to life is given by our creator and only recognized by our government, we are not at liberty to choose when we do, or do not, recognize that right.

I am urging you to vote in favor of HB 1373 because the right to life is tied to each person's existence as a creature, and denying unborn children personhood is an arbitrary distinction that makes our own state's legal code practically and philosophically incoherent.