

Greetings. I am a 57-year-old, lifetime resident of North Dakota, and have spent all my post graduate school years living in Fargo, providing health care to the residents of our state.

I would strongly advise an oppose vote on the following

HB1373. This bill suggests that personhood starts at conception. I believe the introduction and consideration of this bill is governmental overreach. These types of conclusions should be left to health care scientist practitioners, certainly not state governments.

As someone who has worked in the healthcare field my whole adult life, this is inconsistent with what I know about human development and could essentially handcuff reproductive healthcare workers from utilizing evidence based, often life saving practices.

Additionally if the ultimate goal of this bill is to eliminate the option of legal abortion care, history shows that this simply sends those practices underground, that those in desperate circumstances will seek out, and can actually increase rates and lower the safety of abortion procedures in the long term.

This bill would upend the option of abortion even in the most extreme circumstances (ie in cases of rape or incest, and/or to save the life of the mother, who could then go on to face murder charges under this bill). I urge you to please understand the implications of this bill, before you make your decision, and if you truly care about the health and well being of the residents of ND and this country, please vote no on this bill.

Thank you sincerely for your service to the people of our district and this state. Regardless of the party to which you identify, I trust you chose to serve for the right reasons, and I highly applaud your sacrifice!

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