

Human Services Committee
HB 1373
February 5, 2025

The Honorable Chair Ruby and members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Dr. Jerry Obritsch. I am an Obstetrician and Gynecologist having practiced for 33 years at Mid Dakota Clinic here in Bismarck for 31 years and the last 2 years at Essentia Mid Dakota Clinic. I was born in Dickinson and raised on the family dairy and grain farm, the 9th of 12th children. I attended Dickinson State College, now Dickinson State University, earning a bachelor's degree in biology and a bachelor's degree in chemistry. I attended the University of Nebraska – Lincoln earning a master's degree in microbiology. I returned to North Dakota and attended medical school at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences earning my MD. I completed my internship and residency at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. I am currently a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine. I am Board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and am certified in Obstetrical and Gynecological Ultrasound by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS). I am a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the North Dakota Society of Obstetrics and gynecology (NDSOG) and the Association of American Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG). I am a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, founded by William W. Root, MD, 1902. This is the elite honor society of medical students, residents, and physicians. I have provided Ob/gyn satellite services to Standing Rock Indian reservation for 32 years and to the Mobridge Hospital and clinics, Mobridge, SD, for 20 years. I have delivered approximately 7,000 babies in my career and performed several thousand gynecological surgical procedures.

I am writing today in opposition of HB 1373. This bill is not needed and does little more than create confusion and unnecessary fear of prosecution among my colleagues. This concern is reinforced when one reviews the term “relate to the offenses of murder and assault, and civil actions for death caused by wrongful acts” in the bill. Words have consequences and the aforementioned statement certainly contains some powerful words. The ND Legislature has

already addressed the exceptions this bill states in the statute of SB 2150 (I note this statute is currently in appeal to the ND Supreme Court).

In conclusion, this bill is not needed, creates fear and confusion among Ob/gyns, and duplicates exceptions already in ND law. For these reasons, please vote DO not pass on HB 1373.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry M. Obritsch, MD, FACOG