

4 February, 2025

Statement of Opposition to House Bill 1373

Dear Members of the House Human Services Committee,

During the last legislative session SB2150 was passed. Now we are presented with another piece of legislation that further restricts women's rights in our state. Our state should be focused on providing a safe and supportive environment for women so they want to live here, want to start a family here, and want to CHOOSE not to get an abortion.

This bill does not reflect the views of the majority of North Dakotans. According to a poll in 2023, 65 percent of women between the ages of 18 and 54 opposed SB2150 at that time. That bill had exceptions for rape and incest. HB1373 intends to define abortion as murder, this is an incredibly extreme view that is really only the belief of 55+ year old men who are not at all affected by this bill [1].

The way this bill is written it implies that if a young girl is raped, becomes pregnant, and takes Mifepristone, she is guilty of murder? That is absurd.

At the very least, we can agree to disagree about a woman's right to choose. Can we at least agree that after the passage of SB2150 last session we don't need another abortion ban debate that pulls our legislature's attention from other issues that must be attended to this session? The legislature should be "Pro-Life" by addressing the rising costs and lack of availability of child care in our state so women can feel like they're actually able to afford to have children in the first place.

Regards,

Austin Cote  
District 27

[1] Standaert, Michale; Poll #1: 23 Nov 2023 *Disconnect between ND voters, legislators*  
Newscoopnd.org

<https://www.newscoopnd.org/poll-1-disconnect-between-nd-voters-legislators/>