

My name is Ginna Cross, and I'm proud to have grown up in Fairmount, ND where my parents, siblings and their families still live and farm, and I'm a 2006 graduate of the phenomenal NDSU nursing program. In addition to being a Christian, a wife, and a Registered Nurse, the joy of my life is being a mother of 6 children. My children are not and have never been an obstacle to my success. On the contrary, they ARE my success. For those of you who are mothers in this room, I'm sure you would say the same about your children.

I'm thrilled that with HB 1373, my home state of North Dakota has the opportunity to lead the way across the nation in finally protecting the most vulnerable among us, the preborn child.

My husband and I are the Co-Executive Directors of Alliance Family Services, which is a large pregnancy help organization based in Wisconsin that consists of 3 clinics, a mobile clinic that we park in front of a busy Planned Parenthood, and a transitional home that provides safe housing to mothers and their children while we work toward a permanent solution. There are a few things that distinguish us from Planned Parenthood.

The first is that we serve God, not demons.

The second is that we actually care about women, instead of exploiting them for financial gain.

The third is that we believe it's wrong to murder innocent human beings, and it is our mission to speak that Biblical, unchanging truth as lovingly and clearly as we possibly can with every woman we possibly can.

I'm going to talk about that word love for a moment, because in this country the word love has been co-opted to mean something it does not mean. Love does not mean nice feelings. Love means caring enough about someone to protect them from harm whether it gives them nice feelings or not. I love my children, therefore, I do not let them play on a busy road. I do not care the slightest bit how badly they would like to play on a busy road. I do not care how much they scream at me for not allowing them to play on a busy road. They cannot play on a busy road precisely because I LOVE THEM. They are well aware that there will be serious consequences if they ever tried such a thing, so they simply would never do so.

Yet somehow when it comes to abortion, we do not love the women and preborn children of this nation at all, because our laws reflect hate toward mothers and children, not love, and this must change.

In our clinics we see hundreds of women each year who are planning to have an abortion. We provide them with detailed and factual education, financial assistance, free medical care and advocate for them to choose life for their baby. Regardless of what they decide, we will continue to care for and help them, speaking the truth in love, and praying for breakthrough in their lives.

After the Dobbs decision in 2022 we saw something very interesting occur in our state which has direct application to the bill before you today. In the first year following the Dobbs decision the state of Wisconsin had a complete abortion ban that shut down all abortion clinics and restricted abortion to an even greater degree than the law that you have currently being held up by your supreme court. Sadly, in the year of our “abortion ban” we saw just as many women planning to have abortions in our clinics as the year prior, when there was no ban. There was absolutely no difference.

The women we saw during that year by and large knew exactly how to obtain abortion pills, knew exactly what those abortion pills would do to their baby, and were more determined than ever to murder their child. The abortion lobby had recognized that the only targets of pro-life laws were abortion doctors. Therefore, they simply moved to equip the mothers themselves to murder their unborn babies without the middleman involved.

And before you think, “Ok, we just need to stop abortion pills!” Restrictions on abortion pills in the United States are useless when there are multiple international organizations standing by to immediately ship abortion pills to any state and any woman that would like to take them, regardless of state law, with no ability for the United States to stop it.

It didn't take us long during that year to realize that our supposed “abortion ban” had simply shifted the location of these murders as well as the murder weapon. Our law also served to make the abortions in our state unreported, giving the appearance of a decline in abortions. But if you put yourselves in the shoes of the murder victims, I think you'll find that unreported murders are just as devastating as reported ones. My declarations of joy at living in an “abortion free” state quickly turned into a severe reality check that not only did our law fail to give equal protection to the preborn, it actually didn't protect the preborn from murder at all. Your current law also will not protect preborn children from being murdered in North Dakota, which is why I am imploring you to immediately pass HB 1373 through this committee, and give equal protection under the law to our most vulnerable preborn neighbors.

You might think the answer to ending abortion is more pro-life pregnancy clinics like ours. But the truth is, even when we are presenting the clearest ultrasound technology, sharing the most factual medical information, providing numerous financial and other support services, still 60% of women who come to us planning to have an abortion go on to have one. This is because it's not ultimately an education issue or financial issue. It's a matter of sin. And what would change the minds of at least 95% of the mothers that we see is a law just like HB 1373. Abortion would be off the table for them as an option in a moment, and we could move right along to helping them with their needs so that they can be great moms. Pregnancy help clinics are amazing and crucial and will continue to be so after abortion is abolished, but pregnancy help ministries will never be able to abolish abortion. Only the law can do that. And that is why your job today is so crucial.

The law is a TUTOR. Currently the law in North Dakota is tutoring the consciences of women that it's wrong for an abortionist to murder her baby but it's perfectly fine for her to do so by her own hand. This is an immoral and corrupt message that Planned Parenthood is extremely happy with.

What you are about to hear in the testimony against this bill is a collection of empty platitudes meant to weaponize your emotions to consider everyone but the actual victims of these crimes. Pay attention to the ways that opponents of this bill try to manipulate you into believing that it's mean and unloving to do the best possible thing you could do for women, which is allow the law to inform their conscience that they must not murder their living, precious baby.

Like a good parent ignores the emotional manipulation of their children in order to do what is truly best, protecting them from situations where their lives could be instantly destroyed, you have an opportunity to hear the opposing arguments for what they are: manipulative and evil nonsense.

You cannot be pro-life and oppose this bill, because this is the only bill in North Dakota this year that will actually protect preborn human life. You certainly cannot be a Christian and oppose this bill, because the Bible says we must speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. On behalf of preborn children who cannot yet speak for themselves, they would be asking every professing Christian in this room who is opposed to this bill why you will not fight to give them equal protection under the law?

You cannot say on one hand that women are strong and capable of doing hard things, which we are, but on the other hand say that women cannot do the very thing that God created women, and only women, to do, which is bear children. You cannot say on one hand that women are highly intelligent, which we are, but on the other hand say that

with all of the information and technology available at our fingertips every second of the day, we have absolutely no idea that when we become pregnant we are pregnant with our own living, precious, human baby.

As a woman, I am asking you to stop patronizing us with these contradictory arguments. We have agency. When we are willfully choosing to murder our own children it is because of a conscience that has become shockingly depraved and we as American women desperately need our consciences to be informed by the law. Anyone who is opposing this bill is actually supporting and contributing to the rapid moral decline of our nation.

If you say that you love women, then this bill is how you can actually show that. It is the most loving thing you can possibly do. I have numerous friends who are post-abortive. All of these women say that they wish abortion had been a criminal act in their state when they aborted, because if it had been they would never have aborted their baby.

With your actions today, you can be a part of sparing mothers a lifetime of guilt and regret because you helped to rightly inform their conscience with the law.

With your actions today, you can protect real, live sex trafficking victims, whose pimps use the legality of self induced abortion in North Dakota to pressure them to take abortion pills, amplifying their abuse. You can stand with victims of sexual trafficking and other unspeakable abuse by voting YES on HB 1373.

With your actions today, you have the opportunity to recognize the force of momentum that is behind the abolition of abortion movement and to lead the way for the rest of the nation.

You have probably noticed that courageous actions of elected officials are immensely popular right now. Doing the thing that nobody said could be done is being done every day to uproarious applause. And yes, also pushback. But that is the nature of being willing to get into the ring and do what's right. The Christians of this nation will have your back. You can put a stake in the ground right here in North Dakota and say, "no more." Your constituents and the future constituents whose lives can be protected by YOU, today, will be grateful, and the living God will reward your courage.