

Hello Members of the House and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for hearing this testimony and for considering what I have to say about why to vote **Not to Pass HB 1373**.

I think it's fair to say that we all agree that this Bill is about the human lives in the state of North Dakota.

I want to start by saying that I am submitting this testimony after I met an incredible woman. She is proud to have been born and raised in a small North Dakota town. She is brilliant and hard-working. There are truly not enough ways to say what a blessing her friendship is. And she deserves to be proud of North Dakota. To return to her home knowing her and every other woman matter equally.

But this Bill changes that. It changes it because in the debate of abortion, healthcare, and children, the conversation forgets about the mother. And legally redefining what a zygote or 'unborn child' is, changes the world for the women and girls of any age.

They are wonderful people with unlimited potential. Who, just as my friend has, will journey into other parts of the country to do incredible things. Who will represent North Dakota and work to make the state better for the people in it. Which is undoubtedly the foundational belief in every part of this country, to improve the lives of the people in it.

And that starts with trusting people to make the right choices with their healthcare providers. With showing people that they're equal, as the 14th Amendment says. That these women and girls are right in trusting their government to provide them equal protection. That life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is true for everyone.

I urge you to vote to protect the women and girls *already living* in North Dakota. Give the people the opportunities they have trusted their government to protect.

I urge you to vote **Not to Pass** on **HB 1373**.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.