

Chairman Ruby and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shelby Weight and I reside in Williston, North Dakota (District #23). I write to you as a woman who is the mother of three children. As a mother, I deeply desire my three children to grow up in a world that honors the sanctity of life.

I am vehemently **in support of** HB 1373 otherwise known as the ND Equal Protection Act for Pre-Born Persons. The unborn only differs from the born in terms of size, level of development, environment and degree of dependency none of which should be the rubric on which we grant personhood. I ask you: are not human and person synonymous? This bill simply recognizes what science tells us and seeks to afford the unborn child the same basic rights we all have as born people, namely the right to live.

As once said by Mother Teresa, "A nation that kills its children in the womb has lost its soul." Truly, there is no future of families where children are commodified and killed. Children deserve to grow up in a society where they are cherished and looked after first. A **Do Pass** on this bill not only upholds the Constitution of our country but, more importantly, it faithfully stands for what the Bible says: we are fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of our Creator God.

It is likely you will hear arguments in opposition to this bill which seek to disregard what we all know an unborn child is. And so I ask you: is any argument good enough to justify the direct and intentional killing of the smallest members of our society simply because they are hidden from the naked eye in their mother's womb?

I urge you to vote objectively rather than philosophically. I ask that you support verifiable facts rather than arbitrary value systems. I ask you to vote in the way of justice and righteousness, upholding truth where there have been so many lies. I urge you to fight for the most vulnerable in our society - the unborn - and give voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. I implore you: fear God rather than man.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelby Weight
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