

Human Services Committee

HB 1373

February 5, 2025

Chair Ruby and Distinguished Members of the Committee

Today, I stand before you to speak on a truth that is not only rooted in science but in the deepest moral fabric of our hearts: life begins at conception.

From the moment of conception, a unique and unrepeatable human being comes into existence—one who possesses distinct DNA, separate from that of the mother and father. This is not a mere potential for life; it is life itself. A life that, if left unharmed, will grow, develop, and one day take its first breath in the world.

But beyond the science, beyond the biology, there is an undeniable moral truth: every life has inherent value and dignity. Each of us was once a tiny being in our mother's womb, unseen but not insignificant. Just as we cherish the rights and protections afforded to us now, we must extend that same protection to the most vulnerable among us—those who cannot yet speak for themselves but whose right to exist is no less sacred.

We live in a society that claims to stand for justice, for equality, for the protection of the innocent. But how can we truly uphold these values if we deny the very first and most fundamental right—the right to life?

We must be a voice for the voiceless. We must stand firm in the belief that life is not a privilege granted by governments or circumstances but an inherent right bestowed upon us at the very moment we come into existence.

Let us commit to building a culture that cherishes life at every stage—from the womb to natural death. Let us uplift mothers in difficult circumstances, provide support for families in need, and affirm that every child is a blessing, not a burden. Let us replace fear with hope, despair with love, and indifference with action.

Because when we defend the unborn, we defend the very essence of what it means to be human: to love, to protect, and to uphold the dignity of every person.

Thank you, and may we continue to stand for life—without compromise, without apology, and with unwavering love for all.

Sharlet Mohr
Williston, ND