

Chairman Ruby and Members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Stephanie Jorritsma, and I am testifying today as a citizen of North Dakota, asking you to render a “DO NOT PASS” recommendation on HB 1373.

I would like to begin by saying that I am strongly pro-life. I founded a pro-life group on my college campus, which I led for two years. I prayed outside the Red River Women’s Clinic, back when abortions were still being performed in Fargo, and I continue to pray for an end to abortion in our country.

That being said, I believe this bill fails as a concept, as an enforcement tool, and as a path forward.

Women who have had abortions are rarely, if ever, doing so out of malice or flippancy over their unborn children. Quite often they are terrified of social ostracism, manipulated by a partner, or simply have believed the many lies of our pro-abortion culture. Truth thrives in the light—this bill pushes women back into darkness, stopping them from opening up about their fears, asking for help, and choosing life for their children.

For post-abortive women, it is already incredibly difficult to open up and find healing. If a woman had an abortion after this bill became law, this bill would hang their past actions over their heads and ensure that none of them can speak to a support group, a therapist, or even a trusted friend, without risk of being reported, prosecuted as felon, and spending the rest of their lives in jail.

We already have programs around our state to help post-abortive women find hope and healing. Why would we take those programs and substitute them with life in prison? What do we hope to accomplish? With our over-crowded jails, why are we taking women who are already in deep pain, the majority of whom would never even consider another abortion, and putting them in jail for the rest of their lives?

I am pro-life because I am for all people—born and unborn. If we leave expectant mothers isolated to fall victim to fear, manipulation, and the abortion complex’s lies, then we are doing them a grave disservice.

With all of this in mind, I am respectfully asking that you render a “DO NOT PASS” on HB 1373. I have provided my contact information below, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Jorritsma  
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