

I am an Administrator on Duty for a large hospital in North Dakota. Over my nursing career I have witnessed great care for pregnant women in North Dakota; sadly, it's not been able to be delivered by our health care professionals due to restrictions in our current law. Let me be clear, allowing a pregnant woman to progress to hemorrhaging in the parking lot prior to being cared for is not health care. Not permitting D&C procedures in North Dakota is not providing necessary health care by their health care team, forcing these women to go to another state for these necessary procedures to be performed. Make no mistake in believing that our restricted law prevents these procedures being performed on pregnant women from North Dakota, they are, but just not in North Dakota.

I'll be honest, in my opinion this bill is a good option to provide proper and needed obstetrics care to pregnant women in North Dakota. No woman wants to lose a baby at 20 weeks or 25 weeks of gestation, let alone at 30 weeks of gestation. But sometimes these are medically necessary procedures, and these procedures should be done in our hospitals. While this bill may not go as far as I would like to see it go, it is a fair bill and represents a significant improvement in providing care for pregnant women in North Dakota.