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Dear House Human Services Committee,

I am here today to testify in strong opposition to HB 1488, which seeks to legalize abortion up to 15 weeks without restriction in North Dakota.

North Dakota has a long and proud history of defending the right to life. Our policies have consistently reflected our commitment to protecting the most vulnerable among us—the unborn. The overreach of *Roe v. Wade* once forced abortion upon our state, leading to the tragic loss of over 75,000 lives. If not for this devastating toll, North Dakota's population would exceed one million today.

This bill's language is extreme and dangerously broad. It would effectively allow abortion on demand in our state. Such a radical shift in our laws does not reflect the values of North Dakotans, nor does it honor our history as a pro-life state.

Just last session, the legislature passed SB 2150, which protects life while allowing specific exceptions for rape, incest, and the health and safety of the mother. I have personally spoken with OBGYNs in our state who support this law and affirm that they can safely care for mothers while remaining within its framework. Though SB 2150 is currently tied up in court, the lawsuit challenging it is being led by attorneys who represent out-of-state groups, not North Dakotans.

North Dakota has already established a pro-life framework that balances protection for both unborn children and their mothers. HB 1488 does not seek to refine this framework—it seeks to dismantle it. I urge the committee to give HB 1488 a **Do Not Pass** recommendation and to continue upholding the right to life for all North Dakotans—born and unborn.

Thank you for your time and consideration.