

Mrs

Madam Chairman and Honorable members of the North Dakota Health and Human Services committee, my name is Madeline Abbott, I'm from Fargo ND and am a freshman studying communications at the University of Mary in Bismarck. I am here speaking on behalf of Students for Life Action to strongly urge you to not allow HB 1488 to pass. As a State Action Captain for Students for Life, it is my obligation to point out many of the fundamental issues with the construction of this bill, including its use of the word fetus, which is admitted to imply a human being in one definition of the bill and before being denied in others, the ambiguity of the phrase "necessary medical care" and the even more ambiguous nature of the phrase, "Reasonable medical judgment." Regarding the latter of these phrases, I would ask you to consider an example from July of 2022 in which dozens University of Michigan medical students walked out on a pro-life keynote speaker, not wanting anything to do with the message. Situations like this illustrate that medical professionals are just as likely as anyone else to let their personal beliefs and biases show through in their work, and this bill's proposal of an abortion committee would allow so called "reasonable judgment" to include biased judgment that reflects the committee members' personal beliefs and not the life affirming care that is ultimately best for the mother and unborn child. People on both the pro-life and choice sides of the debate believe in empowering women, and the creation of an abortion committee to intervene in this manner does entirely the opposite. And you wonder, if a physician can't be entrusted with making this kind of decision for a woman- what can be entrusted with? The answer is that they should and can be trusted with providing life affirming care that women deserve, which brings me to the main reason I am here to today, even more than just a representative of an organization but as a student and member of the younger generation who has witnessed the fire and dedication of today's future medical professionals for life. I attend, right here in our very own city of Bismarck, one of the best nursing schools in the entire nation, and many of my pre-med and nursing major friends and peers were among the over 300 of us students who attended the March for Life just a few short weeks ago. These students heard Lila Rose, founder of live action.org, speak about how thousands of doctors across the country are proclaiming that abortion is never medically necessary and that state- and nation-wide polls mislead Americans into thinking that it is by presenting that operations to reverse ectopic pregnancies are abortions when there is a way to do this that isn't considered abortion. They heard from a man who survived a botched abortion, and they heard from an abortionist in her 70s who has lived most of her life in regret. The nurses and Drs of the future have heard the pro-life message, and in my conversations with them I can see plainly that the desire desperately to apply this message to their future careers. For the future medical professionals of this state of north dakota, for the preborn, and for all of our states citizens who want to fight to keep North Dakota a pro-life state, I urge you, again to not less this bill pass. I am willing to take any questions.

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Respectfully