

Chairman Weisz and members of the Human Services Committee-

My name is Destini Spaeth and I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB2150. I am the Board Chair of the North Dakota Women In Need Abortion Access Fund. We provide financial support to callers leading up to and on the day of their abortion. Last year, we successfully supported over 600 people in accessing care. I oppose this bill because it infringes on our rights, as North Dakotans, to make thoughtful healthcare decisions and to plan our futures accordingly.

The language in this bill is intended to scare people who may need or provide abortion care. Is it truly the will of the North Dakota legislature to rule by instilling fear? We should be lifting up and prioritizing the needs of our communities and abortion is a very common need, indeed. One in four people who can get pregnant will have an abortion in their lifetime. Failure to acknowledge this commonness only creates more hurdles to accessing comprehensive healthcare but it does not stop it from happening. People will continue to have the abortions they need and want because of a dedicated network of providers, abortion funds, logistical support groups, and compassionate neighbors. Abortion bans like SB2150 ensure that care is delayed and abortions are done later in pregnancy- but abortions will continue.

When it is determined that the North Dakota abortion trigger-ban violates our state constitution, SB2150, if made law, will be the next to be struck down as the language mirrors that of the trigger-ban. Only adding an exception for victims of rape and incest up to 6 weeks, before many people know they are pregnant, is hardly a compassionate compromise.

I am asking you to vote DO NOT PASS out of committee on SB2150.

Thank you for taking these few moments to consider the dignity, safety, and self-determination of people who may need abortions living in North Dakota.