

## Testimony in Support of HB 1373

Honorable Members of the Committee,

Though I am not a resident of North Dakota, I am a firm advocate for justice and equal protection for all human beings. I urge you to pass HB 1373 because it upholds the fundamental truth that every human life—simply by virtue of being human and beginning at the moment of fertilization—is inherently valuable and worthy of legal protection.

This is a matter of justice. Our nation was founded on the principle that all people are created equal, and yet our laws have denied equal protection to the most vulnerable among us: unborn children. House Bill 1373 corrects this injustice in North Dakota by ensuring that the definition of a "human being" includes the unborn in cases of murder, assault, and wrongful death. This is not radical. This is consistent. North Dakota already recognizes unborn children as victims of violent crime in certain instances. It is time to remove the arbitrary exceptions and affirm what science and moral law make clear: life begins at conception, and the law must protect it.

Scripture teaches that every person is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27), and the shedding of innocent blood is a grievous offense (Genesis 9:6, Jeremiah 22:3). Our justice system already acknowledges that homicide is the unlawful taking of innocent life. If you believe in justice, you cannot carve out exceptions based on age, location, or level of dependency. Unequal treatment under the law is an abomination to the Lord (Proverbs 20:10), and laws must reflect moral consistency.

HB 1373 does not introduce anything extreme—it simply aligns North Dakota law with the reality that human life is valuable at all stages. It does not criminalize unintentional pregnancy loss. It does not prevent life-saving medical care for mothers. It upholds justice by ensuring that those who intentionally harm or take the life of any human being are held accountable.

As lawmakers, you have the obligation to defend the defenseless. I urge you to stand on the side of science, truth, and justice. Pass HB 1373 and send a clear message that human life is worthy of protection.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Caleb Thorne