

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Isabella Hedlund, and I live in District 43. I support HB 1373.

Up until a few years ago, I did not think it made much of a difference what the laws were regarding abortion and the unborn. Babies were not even on my radar. Frankly, I lived for myself and wasn't bothered with any moral issues aside from looking good in my own eyes.

Everything has changed for me though. About 4 short years ago, I was convicted of God's truth and became a Christian. Since then, I've moved to North Dakota and graduated from UND; I'm now married and 22 weeks pregnant with my first child.

Now that I'm looking to God's Word to judge truth, rather than myself, it has become obvious to me that unborn babies are **as much human** as you or me. It's only common sense that they should enjoy the same protections that you and I do. Moreover, when the unborn are not treated as the human beings they are, it is a heartbreaking injustice that is all too easy to gloss over. God, though, **does not** and will not forget.

I think of my little one in my womb right now, whom I'm already starting to get to know. Almost every time I eat fruit, my baby starts moving around and kicking. I've started to notice when my baby seems to wake up or seems to like what they're hearing. I'm only halfway through my pregnancy, and I know I'm a mom already.

The more that I learn about conception in particular, the more incredible God's design and plan is to me. Did you know that each of the millions of sperm my baby could have been formed from, each one has its own unique genetic material? And did you know that once one sperm has reached the egg, a chemical reaction takes place that changes the composition of the egg's exterior and prevents any other sperm from entering? Not to mention that the entirety of my baby's future development has been set in stone from this one encounter: all the blueprints, all the personality, all of their nature has been determined. My baby's creation is not a mistake or an accident, and he or she existed completely **as a human being** since that one definitive moment when they were created.

That all is to say that I've been a mom since the moment of conception, and my child has existed as a human since that same moment. It is all because of God's choosing.

Members of the Committee, you are in a heavy position. God also appoints the rulers and judges of the land; it is not of your own will, but of God's, that you hold the public office that you do. You have been given an obligation from God to govern **justly**. I urge you to vote in favor of HB 1373, showing mercy to those who are smaller, weaker, and hidden from sight, yet just the

same as you and I before the eyes of God. In James 2:13, God says *“For judgement will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgement.”*

Thank you for your time and service in hearing my testimony and the other testimonies of your people.

Sincerely,

Isabella Hedlund