

Good Morning Committee Members,

My name is McKenzie McCoy, and I reside outside of Watford City, ND in District 39. I'm testifying today in opposition to SCR 4002.

Let's just state the obvious – there is no such thing as a 'fourth trimester'. We all learned as kids that the prefix 'tri' means three: tricycles, triangles, and triple scoops at the ice cream shop. And we all know a human pregnancy generally consists of 40 weeks of gestation and is divided into three trimesters. These are scientific facts, well documented and universally accepted for millenia. So, where did this mystical fourth trimester come from? And why is this language showing up in legislation and being pushed so adamantly?

I'll give you a hint: WORDS. Words are powerful, and words effect culture. The Left knows this, and they have become very good wordsmiths. Some examples: The taking of an unborn baby's life is simply a 'woman's choice'. A human baby is referred to as an embryo, a fetus, or a clump of cells...anything but a baby. Pro-lifers are called 'anti-choice'.

The term fourth trimester was coined by Dr. Harvey Karp, a California pediatrician. He claims that babies are born too soon, and thus should be thought of as fetuses outside the womb. Hence the birth of the 'fourth trimester'. The abortion industry saw this as a perfect trojan horse – and ran with it. They latched on to the 'fourth trimester' phrase to push the Left's agenda to facilitate our own destruction under the guise of helping women. And like all of their solutions to help women, the baby becomes the sacrificial lamb. And now being born alive doesn't even help. The message to the newborn baby is that it is disposable if it causes mom too much hardship. In order to justify the killing of babies outside the womb, pro-abortionists use made up language to dehumanize the born child and seditiously start passing legislation that seems harmless, even good, like SCR 4002, which attempts to make September 23rd Fourth Trimester Care Day in North Dakota.

But read carefully, committee members – and be very wary of any seemingly pro-life legislation written and supported by Republican Senators whose voting record on life does not follow the Republican Platform at all.

This bill is an attempt to re-brand the postpartum phase of pregnancy in North Dakota under the guise of advocacy for mom and baby. But instead of supporting the mom and baby as separate yet equal human beings in symbiotic relationships, they are inadvertently placing mom's needs over baby's, setting the stage for North Dakota to follow Canada and many countries in Europe which have legalized abortion in the fabricated fourth trimester. Page 1, lines 8 “WHEREAS, the well-being of a mother and her infant are intimately connected **and rather than treating them as separate entities**, their care should be understood as mutually beneficial, (baby is stripped of its individual status as a human and tied to mom's well-being) with the needs of the one considered in the context of the needs of the other” and page 2, line 14- “WHEREAS, for the sake of the health and well-being of both mother and infant, **a mother should receive the mental, physical, social, and economic support she needs** to successfully transition through this important fourth trimester period”

And here is where the seemingly innocent language in SCR 4002 comes full circle and demonstrates the insidious practice of tying mom and baby together as one human, not two, by placing mom's needs over the baby's. In 2008, the Urban Dictionary defined fourth trimester abortion as “an abortion within the first 4 months after birth. Traditionally performed by a clothes hanger or other wire shaped device, but modern science is constantly coming up with newer and safer procedures.” They go on to use the word in a sentence, “After the baby was out, she decided to have a fourth trimester abortion, as it was in everyone's best interest.” In Canada, as well as most of Europe and any country supported by the WHO, if a woman doesn't want the responsibility of

motherhood anymore, and doesn't want to place the baby up for adoption or drop the baby off at the hospital no questions asked, then the woman may have an 'abortion'. This is clearly infanticide. The mother's "right to choose" supersedes the baby's right to live. We are leaving out a very important person in this equation – the child. Even Dr. Seuss understands this as the factitious Horton loudly proclaims, "A person's a person, no matter how small!"

If you want to read more on atrocity of 'fourth trimester abortion' committed against born children, research The Groningen Protocol. Published in 2005 by physicians in Netherlands, it outlines five criteria to actively commit infanticide and avoid questioning by authorities. As a nurse, this protocol is nauseating. As a medical professional I took an oath to do no harm, *primum non nocere*, and to never abandon a patient. These two rules are the framework that guides my actions when caring for another human being. The very notion that there is an "accepted medical standard" for infanticide is appalling, and any medical professional who supports abortion at any stage, for any reason, should be stripped of the rights to practice.

There is no such thing as the fourth trimester of pregnancy, and any lawmaker, especially a Republican cannot continue to support this resolution now knowing the truth. The 2020 Republican Platform is very clear on life – in the Preamble it states, "We affirm – as did the Declaration of Independence: that all are created equal, endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness (emphasis added)." It further states on pages 13 and 14, "We assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life that cannot be infringed. We oppose the non-consensual withholding or withdrawal of care or treatment, including food and water, from individuals with disabilities, newborns, the elderly, or the infirm, just as we oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide."

The wording in this legislation sponsored by Republican's is deeply concerning. Even if one was initially naive to the history of the fourth trimester. I am urging every single legislator to take the time to study this resolution and the history of the fictitious fourth trimester. Let's not allow the manipulation of language to fool us into adopting potentially lethal legislation. There is no 4th trimester. And God willing, there never will be here in America.

This resolution is a subtle way to introduce dehumanizing language of a born child. Committee members be courageous and recommend a "Do not pass" on this resolution that diminishes the life of a newborn infant under the banner of women's health initiatives. If you truly care about mothers and babies, you will advocate for their support and care while holding to the truth that both lives are precious.

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Republican Senator testifying against HB 1336 video:
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