



**SB 2274**  
Senate Human Services Committee  
February 13, 2023  
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Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

My name is Paul Letvin. I serve as a pastor of Submerge Church, co-leader of the Evangelical Leadership Network of Fargo-Moorhead, and chair of America's Black Robe Regiment of North Dakota. I am providing this testimony on behalf of various Christian groups across the great state of North Dakota, as well as on behalf of SAGE Cons (Spiritually Active, Governance Engaged Conservatives), which comprise of 9 percent of U.S. adults (approximately 23 million people), **in support of SB 2274.**

As Christians, we – including our bodies – belong to the Lord. Our bodies do not belong to the state, any man, or any employer (1 Peter 2:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 7:23). Any attempt to alter, damage, or destroy the image of God in man is an insult to our Creator and rebellion against God. The Greek verb translated destroy (phtheirei) in Romans 9:20 also means “to corrupt” or “spoil.”

Christians and their bodies are described as a temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells within us (1 Corinthians 6:18). While the context of this verse is sexual immorality, this signifies to us that we must exercise the greatest care in how we use and treat our bodies, including any substances that might be injected into our bodies. Employers do not and should not dictate the food and drink to be consumed by their employees, and neither should they dictate what is injected into their bodies.

Every person is responsible for willful acts done in his or her body. Responsibility to God for one's own actions is not obviated by government or private party demands to disobey God's Word. No temporal crisis, disease, or pandemic obviates the will of God or nullifies one of His commandments.

I strongly encourage a “Do Pass” of SB 2274. Thank you for your consideration.

*But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. - 1 Corinthians 2:10*