Crystal Gilks Winthrop LD 780

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the people this effects. We live in a state that I am proud to call home. We rallied together when times gets tough as we saw with the flooding and the tragedy in Lewiston. We've seen countless people across the country in dire straits because they were denied access to health care that they deserve. We live in a country that was founded on religious freedom and here we are losing our rights due to the very religion our forefathers left England for. There are no other types of surgeries or medications that require a legislative body to tell us whether or not we are allowed to use it. There are no medications that men take that require a doctor to wonder if he's going to lose his job or not. There are no surgeries that require a doctor to wonder if he's going to lose his job or not. There are no other medical procedures and medications that require somebody else's approval that isn't even involved in the decision process. We must amend our great constitution to allow for body autonomy, privacy on medical conditions, and privacy in making decisions that are very hard and should be between a person and their doctor. No one should fear dying because they can't get medication or procedure done. No one should have to flee their state to get the care that they need. No one should have to sit in a parking lot until they're septic before they can get care. At what point do we stop saying this is about being pro-life? Whose life are we protecting? We certainly are not protecting the pregnant person. We are certainly not protecting the doctor. We definitely aren't protecting the pharmacist. Who exactly are we protecting? Instead of archaic laws that allow for people to die, we need to amend the constitution and allow for new rules that save people's lives. It is imperative that we allow people to make decisions based on fact and based on what's best for them. We cannot allow politicians to interfere with things that they do not understand. Politicians are not doctors. They do not know what is best for somebody. Abortion is healthcare. Birth control is healthcare. These are basic human rights that we should always have access to. If you are for stripping away these rights, please remember that the people who are hurt by this looked to you for help and you found them.