

I strongly urge you to move forward on HB 1282, vote **DO PASS** to provide access to insurance benefits for infertility, so it can advance in 2025. This important legislation will help North Dakotans build their families when faced with any conditions that can cause infertility. North Dakotans need your support now!

My husband and I are both life-long North Dakota residents; currently living, working, and active in the community for 14+ years. As a couple we are struggling with infertility for 11 years. Infertility is not just a medical condition it affects North Dakotans daily and impacts our future. IVF is a good thing; it supports the birth of babies, grows families, creates communities, makes women moms and men dads. I dream of the day I get to become a mom. I feel grateful that I've had supportive doctors throughout my infertility journey with my fertility treatments including multiple IVFs. Though it's been a financial burden and we haven't had a successful full term pregnancy yet, I fully believe IVF is good, and have seen so many miracles born from IVF.

Our fertility struggle creates a missing piece in our hearts. Despite our years of efforts we have yet to be able to expand our family. There has been much hurt and pain in our hearts as we align to overcome our fertility challenges. We are excited to someday share our life with our children. The fertility journey has been long, lonely, disappointing and so many other hard emotions, beyond the financial burden. In my heart I know we have children waiting to join our family, but they seem just out of reach. And yet we remain hopeful and hold a knowing in my heart I'm meant to be a mom.

I know a bill cannot magically make me pregnant or the 1 in 6 other couples struggling to get pregnant. However you can help support us and maybe that helps us get pregnant. We have worked with medical reproductive endocrinologists, gynecologists, fertility acupuncturists, chiropractor, abdominal massage therapist, mental therapists, and fertility coaches. Most of which has been self paid for. We have seen positive outcomes but no live pregnancy yet. Unfortunately a lot of IVF is trial and error figuring out what medication combination and amounts work well for each person to get quality eggs and a hospitable uterus ready for implantation. Every person is different and each cycle is different. What works for one person may not work for someone else. The doctors are trying to get it right and sometimes need a tweak from one cycle to the next. This of course causes financial burden to get the combination just right in repeated cycles, especially in the tougher cases like ours.

I need your support, along with the 1 in 6 couples in our state living with the disease of infertility. There are so many women and couples we've met on our fertility journey who are struggling as well to grow their families, some have sooner success than others. Each case is different and should be treated likewise. Many people like myself do not openly talk about infertility as it is triggering and painful. You don't know who has or is going through fertility challenges.

It is time for North Dakota to update its insurance law to include coverage for the standard of care for patients with infertility.

This pro-women and pro-family legislation is designed to ensure the best outcome for mothers and their babies. As proven in other states, insurance covering in vitro fertilization (IVF) decreases the chance of multiple births, and lowering multiple births decreases overall health care costs and results in healthier babies and healthier moms.

I hope you will support North Dakota families and communities by voting DO PASS for HB 1282. Thank you!

Robin Holt
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