

Re: HB 1282

Erin Lee, 6207 17th St N, Fargo, ND 58102

Human Services Committee Members:

Hi, my name is Erin Lee. I live in Fargo and work as a nurse practitioner at Sanford Health in the OB/GYN clinic. I will soon also be working at Sanford Reproductive Medicine (I did in the past from 2008-2015 and will be doing so 1 day/week again). I'd like to convey my support for HB 1282—public IVF insurance coverage.

Changing from a dollar limit to a number of services would be helpful for many. As you know, health care costs continually rise, and the dollar amount given prior is now not being able to cover as much for couples who need this assistance. It's fairly common practice that IVF now has a fresh cycle where eggs are retrieved, combined with sperm to make embryos. Those that fertilize and grow to day 5 are frozen, as studies show it can be a higher success rate to do an embryo transfer when the woman has quieter ovaries (after an egg retrieval they are enlarged and there is more inflammation in the body from that process). Unfortunately, freezing embryos and then coordinating/synching up the uterus to be the right stage for embryos, does cost more money than a fresh cycle alone would be. But this is where science has led us and we want to make sure the couple has the best chance at a successful pregnancy.

Providing a number of services for IVF and adequate coverage may help recruit and retain employees who are satisfied with their health insurance plan.

Please consider supporting HB 1282. I would also be happy to answer questions you have. You can email me at erinlee79@outlook.com or erin.lee@sanfordhealth.org.

Thank you for your time!