

My name is Riley Tackett, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB1477, which is vital for ensuring access to infertility care and reproductive health services in North Dakota.

I always knew I wanted to be a mom; it was the one thing I was certain of. At 15, I was diagnosed with endometriosis and had my first laparoscopic procedure to remove adhesions. For the next five years, I was on medication to stop my periods completely. Even at that young age, being told that pregnancy might be uncertain broke my heart. When I was 19, I had another procedure to remove more adhesions and my severely damaged left fallopian tube, making pregnancy seem even more impossible.

At 24, after numerous tests, medications, and a lot of help from doctors, I had my daughter in June 2016. In 2020, we decided to expand our family and went through the same procedures to get pregnant again, but I miscarried at 8 weeks. In 2022, we tried once more, undergoing the same treatments, only to have an ectopic pregnancy that required the removal of my only remaining fallopian tube, extinguishing any hope of adding to our family.

When I woke up from that surgery, my first thought was, "There's no way I can afford IVF." My daughter, now 6, asks almost every day when she'll have a sibling, and all I can tell her is, "When we have more money to afford it."

Infertility is a medical condition that affects 1 in 8 families, yet accessing care remains a significant challenge for many. The financial burden of treatments, combined with a lack of sufficient insurance coverage and regulatory barriers, leaves many individuals and families without the resources they need to pursue their dream of having children.

HB1477 addresses these challenges by safeguarding access to reproductive healthcare services. This bill ensures that families facing infertility can receive the medical care they need without unnecessary interference or restrictions.

By supporting HB1477, North Dakota can set an example of compassion and fairness in healthcare, giving hope to countless families who dream of growing their families. I urge you to vote YES on this critical bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Riley Tackett

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