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To whom it may concern,

During my time serving as the 2019 North Dakota Teacher of the Year, I became very familiar with the process of submitting bills, lobbying, and meeting with senators and representatives to advocate for the needs of educators and students not only in our state but in our nation.

During the year I was named North Dakota Teacher of the Year, I also got married in April and decided to invite my entire school to our special day. Maybe you heard of this event, as it made it to mainstream media. This is where our dream of growing our family and our hard journey to try to conceive a baby began. By December, due to my age (35), we were forwarded on to begin infertility treatments. My husband and I have undergone five failed treatments so far and we are still not pregnant. As a Kindergarten teacher and international education consultant, I have dedicated my life to serving other family's children while simultaneously desiring to have my own little one at home. We are about to begin our sixth treatment next Monday, again trying to conceive using IVF.

Our doctors have declared that the only way we will get pregnant is through IVF, yet our insurance will only cover small portions. Even after our doctors have filed appeals. We have paid over \$15,000 out of pocket so far between medications and more shots in my stomach than I can list, appointments, ultrasounds, bloodwork, and genetic testing. The only way we could afford this so far was straining our financial limits and only with the extra help of family and friends who helped pitch in. We will be taking out a loan of about \$12,000 to pay for our upcoming IVF treatment.

I have wanted to be a mom since I was a little girl, but I never dreamt it would be so difficult. As if the invasive treatments are not enough, we also have to shoulder a large and stressful financial burden for even a small chance that we could become pregnant. I wish infertility on no one. It is an emotional rollercoaster with nearly nothing you can control and the losses along the way are devastating. North Dakota, we can do better for our families. We must do better. Please reach down into your heart and try to empathize with our situation. It is similar to so many families we have connected with through this process.

Thank you for your time and service to our state. I know many of you personally and your efforts are appreciated and seen by me and so many others throughout North Dakota.

Best,

Kayla M. Dornfeld (Delzer)