

Hello, my name is Cheyenne Ketterling. I currently reside outside of Wishek with my husband, Taylor, where we farm and ranch. I also teach ag education in Edgeley. I grew up being a fixer. In a family of three older girls and one younger brother, I remember helping my dad fix tractors or other equipment, and of course, fixing fence. These days, I spend time helping students fix their projects, figure out how to solve the problem on a worksheet, and how to find their passions for a future career. If theres a problem, I fix it, Im a fixer. What I cannot fix, is my ability to have children. After my husband and I got married at 22, it was a very typical if we have kids right away, great, and if not, thats fine too. After two years of marriage, we tried to conceive to have children. After a few months of negative results, I reached out to Tara Harding to figure out if there was something wrong. After a few more months of supplements, medications, tests, and other appointments, there was still no baby to be seen. We were referred to Balance Medical in Bismarck. Once again, tests were done, appointments were made, different dosages of medication, and still it seemed like everyone in the world was having babies but us. Next we had two options that were relatively close to us. We could go to Minneapolis for treatments, or we could go to Fargo for treatments. With our location and careers, we chose Fargo. We started with IUI which stands for intrauterine insemination. We were told everywhere we had been to that we are a young, healthy couple. We should have easily gotten pregnant without any treatments, yet here we were. We had 3 failed IUIs. The possibility of each one producing a baby made us so hopeful, instead, each one ended in more heartbreak. We then made the decision to do IVF. Egg retrieval and FET were words I didnt think I would ever have to know so intimately. Shots in the stomach, medications, bloating, ultrasounds, traveling to appointments, and pain were something I was getting used to during egg retrieval, but it would all be worth it right? We were able to have 4 good embryos frozen. FET, or fetal embryo transfer, would allow us to finally see a baby of our own. Now, after close to \$40,000 of our own money spent trying to have a child of our own, we still dont have one. Unexplained infertility is what weve been diagnosed with. Our only hope of babies of our own is with science. Science God created for couples who struggle with infertility.

If you have children of your own, I want you to think about all of the good times, laughs, or great memories youve had with them through their lifetime. If you have grandchildren, think about the joy they bring you. Now think about the times youve argued, disagreed, or were angry with them. And finally, take away all of it. Every memory, good time, or bad time. What does your life look like now? It feels pretty empty right?

This is how so many families feel. 1 in 6 families are affected with infertility, and its the only medical condition that insurance routinely excludes from coverage. Infertility isnt something I can fix. I cant fix unexplained infertility. Infertility is not a choice its a medical condition, and it should be treated like one. I encourage you to vote YES on house bills 1282, 1284, and 1477 to help us couples like many of you to have families.

Also, please vote NO on house bill 1373, which is trying to redefine the definition of a human being and unborn child, once again restricting IVF access and going against couples starting families.

Thank you for listening and your time and consideration today.

Sincerely,
Cheyenne Ketterling
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