

Human Services Committee
HB 1373
February 5, 2025

Chair Ruby and members of the Committee,

My name is Kaitlin Schmitz, and I was born and raised in western Minnesota near the North Dakota border. I completed my bachelor's and master's degrees at North Dakota State University, left the state for a few years to complete a PhD, and have now returned to establish my career here. I've always been proud to call this state my home. I'm writing to express my opposition to House Bill 1373.

My husband and I are currently struggling with infertility. We've experienced the heartbreak of multiple miscarriages and are currently pursuing fertility treatments. IVF may be a part of our journey in the future, but this legislation threatens to take away that option. Personhood laws could restrict access to IVF by imposing legal complications, making it harder for families like mine to grow.

This legislation could also complicate miscarriage management. The pain of losing a pregnancy is devastating enough without adding the fear that essential medical care might be delayed or denied because of restrictive laws. Patients and doctors should be free to make decisions based on health and compassion, not legal uncertainties.

Legislation like this makes me question whether North Dakota is the right place for us to stay and build our future. I want to live in a state that values families and supports access to the compassionate care we need, not one that creates additional barriers during already difficult times.

Vote "Do Not Pass" on HB 1373. Please don't make it harder for people like me to stay and thrive here.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Kaitlin Schmitz
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