

House Human Services Committee
Chairman Matt Ruby
Jan. 24, 2025
HB 1373

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Brooke Maatz, and I am a board-certified nurse practitioner who has lived in Grand Forks for three years. Prior to that, I spent twelve years in Fargo. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 1373.

I am here today not only as a healthcare professional but, more importantly, as a mother. My husband and I married in 2021 with the hope of starting a family right away. Unfortunately, we faced heartbreaking struggles with infertility. After our first two pregnancies ended in loss, we were diagnosed with recurrent pregnancy loss and unexplained infertility. Our journey led us to the Sanford Reproductive Clinic in Fargo, where we pursued multiple fertility treatments, including intrauterine insemination (IUI), in vitro fertilization (IVF), and embryo transfers. After numerous setbacks—including a pregnancy loss with a genetically normal embryo—we were finally able to welcome a healthy, beautiful son through IVF.

Without the care and support from Sanford's reproductive clinic, we would not have our son today. We are incredibly fortunate to have had access to such vital services right here in North Dakota.

I am asking the committee to vote **no** on HB 1373. The bill could have devastating unintended consequences for families like ours who rely on IVF to build their families. Specifically, if this bill passes, it could create legal liabilities for fertility clinics and healthcare providers if an embryo does not develop or if an embryo transfer does not result in a live birth. This would likely end access to IVF care in our state but also place unnecessary risks on both patients and healthcare providers.

One in six couples struggles with fertility, and for many, IVF is the only option for achieving a family. This bill would limit access to the very services that allow people to build their families, while also introducing severe risks to healthcare providers' ability to practice their professions.

In conclusion, I strongly **oppose** HB 1373. It would harm North Dakota families, jeopardize healthcare providers' livelihoods, and place unnecessary restrictions on the life-changing care that IVF provides.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your service, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Brooke Maatz, DNP, NP-C