

January 31, 2025

Jessica O'Day - resident of District 22
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West Fargo, ND 58078

Opposed - HB1373

This written testimony is presented in opposition to HB 1373.

My name is Jessica O'Day. I am a lifelong resident of the state of North Dakota, and the mother of two children, a son who is seven and a daughter who is four. I am writing this letter in opposition to House Bill 1373.

This bill would effectively replace the rights of a pregnant person with the rights of the embryo, **limiting essential health care for pregnant people** and making their care subordinate to that of the embryo. According to the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, it would also have a direct impact on embryonic stem cell research, infertility treatments such as IVF, and treatments for cancer and other conditions.

Personhood laws directly violate the Hippocratic oath, "first do no harm." Regardless of the circumstances in which a child is conceived, the pregnant individual's life, health, and wellbeing need to be the priority. Anything less than that is a violation of the hippocratic oath, as the potential for harm to the pregnant individual should be avoided at all costs.

In accordance with the Ohio State Law Journal, **personhood proposals carry serious threats to women's constitutional rights** to access contraceptives, as well as deny women safe and effective methods to protect their own health.

As a mother, I have had the fortune to have carried two pregnancies to term, and delivered two healthy babies via cesarean section. Women's health is not to be left to having "good fortune," as I was able to have. All women deserve protection and healthcare throughout their pregnancy experiences, and best practices need to be determined by medical professionals, who then consult with their patients to determine the best plan of care for a mother, her children, and her family.

Please oppose HB 1373.

Jessica O'Day
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