

I am writing in serious opposition of House Bill 1373.

House Bill 1373 defines an unborn baby as a person from the moment sperm meets an unfertilized egg. This language would create insurmountable obstacles for Sanford Reproductive Medicine in Fargo, the only clinic in North Dakota that provides in vitro fertilization services. And without this clinic, I would not be a mother to my two young children, Samuel and Annie.

No one ever expects to require fertility treatments to conceive, but that became my husbands and my reality. After undergoing several unsuccessful months of trying medications and intrauterine inseminations, we moved onto IVF. After an egg retrieval surgery, we were able to retrieve 29 eggs. 17 of these eggs fertilized. 10 of the fertilized eggs became embryos, five of which were considered euploid, or likely to become a baby. HB1373 would have made all of this impossible for us. According to the incredibly misguided language in HB1373, the providers at Sanford Reproductive Medicine would have been criminalized for these efforts in making us parents.

For a nation that values family and aims to see an increase in birth rates, this bill would be detrimental. Men and women in North Dakota dreaming of becoming parents deserve better.

I look at Samuel and Annie every day and I am reminded of the blessings that Sanford Reproductive Medicine gave us.

I urge you - do NOT pass HB 1373.

With sincerity,

Emma Waloch  
Gwinner, ND