

Dear Chair Ruby and Members of the Human Services Committee,

I am baffled why this continues to be a contentious debate in the North Dakota Legislature! I am a retired embryologist from the Sanford Reproductive Medicine Laboratory in Fargo, ND.

If a couple struggles to have a family by “natural methods,” why on Earth would you make their path to parenthood even more difficult?

It should be common knowledge that not every fertilized egg becomes a viable birth. How many couples do you know who have experienced miscarriage? Perhaps it's not personal for you. There are a multitude of reasons why an embryo doesn't continue to grow - genetic defects, failure to implant in the uterus, along with many other reasons.

This bill is designed to threaten the doctors and staff at any IVF clinic with prison time and loss of licensure and jobs. The liability would prevent them from continuing to practice. The idea that you would charge doctors or staff with MURDER is heinous! It is called Assisted Reproductive Medicine for a reason. We assist the process, but there is a Higher Power who controls life and death.

If you consider yourself “pro-family,” it should be an easy decision to defeat this bill. Please OPPOSE HB 1373 and stop this assault on a valuable medical practice!

Sincerely,  
Linda Olson