

Chairman Ruby and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this testimony in **OPPOSITION** to HB 1373.

I am an Andrologist at the only IVF fertility clinic in North Dakota. I directly work with patients who are working to create a family. As someone with firsthand experience and day to day interactions with patients going through fertility struggles, I strongly encourage you to OPPOSE HB 1373 so that we can continue to provide care to our patients. Infertility is a medical diagnosis, and North Dakotans should have access to treatment of this medical disease. We care strongly for the women and men of our state, and for the 1 in 6 couples that battle infertility. Please take this opportunity to show your support for your friends, family, coworkers and the citizens of your state to access these services by Opposing HB1373.

Medical professionals do not want to work in a state where they could face criminal charges for doing their jobs. No matter how many exceptions are included in this bill, there is always room for interpretation when faced with criminal charges. Each of you has occupations outside of your elected positions. Would you want politicians questioning your job performance and possibly pressing charges against you if they didn't agree with you?

The bill could have devastating unintended Consequences for families 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.

Sincerely,

Joie Thompson