

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote in opposition to HB 1373, which aims to redefine a “human being” to include an “unborn child” from the moment of fertilization. This change would have severe implications on reproductive health, the ability to utilize IVF to start a family, and much more. This bill is too vague and too dangerous to pass.

This bill lays out what they’re willing to make exceptions for: spontaneous miscarriage, acts during diagnostic medical testing, and a procedure undertaken to save a mother’s life. None of those three things cover the life-threatening condition of an ectopic pregnancy, which can be deadly if left untreated. This is beyond anyone's control and does not fall under any of the protected categories listed above. In addition to ectopic pregnancies, this bill would essentially eliminate the ability to utilize IVF as an option to help them achieve pregnancy. This bill is too unclear that medical teams are not going to want to risk their license and the possibility of getting criminally charged due to the ambiguous way this bill was written.

I ask of you as a North Dakota resident, a mother, and a patient who had to undergo IVF myself to oppose HB 1373. North Dakota already has an abortion ban put into place and this bill is just a disgusting overreach which could negatively affect those who are actively trying to grow their families or harm those who are helping those grow their family. Those are the ones who are caught in the crossfire. People like myself. People you know and love who need these reproductive services. People who are experiencing ectopic pregnancies. People who are trying to help will become collateral damage.

Please protect the people of North Dakota by voting as a do not pass.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lindsey Olander

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