

01/31/2025

RE: Opposition to North Dakota House Bill 1373

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Megan Kontinakis. I am a North Dakota resident asking you to vote **No on House Bill 1373**. This proposed bill is not black and white as the proposed writer may hoped and does not protect the medical practice of IVF. This bill creates too many complications for doctors and laboratory personnel to safely conduct IVF, that they would have no other choice but to be forced to shut down. This proposed bill states in section one 14-20 reasonings in which it would be considered unintentional death of an unborn child, but you see this complicates the IVF process directly as the process discards embryos that would not sustain life known through extensive testing and phd knowledge. This process of discard selection mimics the natural fertilization process of a woman's body and if implantation doesn't occur she just doesn't become pregnant. The medical advancement and practice of IVF gives HOPE and expands families that would physically not be made possible by natural conception. It also gives hope to the future of North Dakota to ensure the generational growth and history this state holds.

It is no secret that the representative who proposed this is strong within their religious beliefs, but who is to cast judgement onto those when one has no self knowledge or experience in these medical processes. I myself am a mother who conceived naturally and consider myself a christian teaching my child to know the loving and forgiving God who has given us the free-will to make our own choices. Who are we to play that role and take away the rights of others to make their own free-will choices? It is important to protect that right and vote NO. I am self aware that just because I was able to naturally conceive once does not guarantee for the next, I could be in the position to need IVF to expand my own family with goals to build deep roots here in North Dakota. Please protect the right in giving the opportunity and blessing of parenthood for citizens of North Dakota by voting **No on House Bill 1373**. You never know if this could impact your family: wife, daughter, sister, brother, friend, or neighbor.

Thank you for reading and considering my testimony as you make a decision.

Megan Kontinakis
Minot, ND