

I am writing this testimony **IN OPPOSITION** to HB 1373:

I am a Medical Technologist/Andrologist at the only IVF fertility clinic in North Dakota. I directly work with patients who are working to create a family. I am also a patient that would not have my kids had it not been access to these services in our area. The amount of anxiety and stress involved in this procedure was hard enough – even with access to a local clinic. I can't imagine having to drive 4...5...6+ hours on top of what we already endured to pursue growing our family. Please don't do that to your residents, so so so many people (1 in 6!) rely on our services, expertise and passion to assist in their dreams of growing their family.

As someone with specialized training as an Andrologist at the state's only Reproductive Medicine clinic, I strongly encourage you to **NOT PASS** HB1373 so that we can continue to provide care to our patients. You have actual Reproductive Medical Professionals who work in this field of medicine, every day, testifying that they cannot risk practicing this medicine in ND if the bill is passed as written. **ACTUAL LOCAL REPRODUCTIVE MEDICAL PROVIDERS WHO ADVISE AGAINST THIS BILL!** Yet a relator who claims "IVF wont be affected" is being believed by many over the actual providers from ND who work at the **ONLY** reproductive clinic in the state. Not 1 person, to my knowledge, from this bill has reached out us to just have a conversation about our concerns and how real they are to us, our practice and liability, and how this will affect 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 **NOT PASSING** HB1373.

Sincerely,

Marie Ackerman, MT (ASCP)