

Statement of Opposition to House Bill 1373

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 1373. While some may see this bill as a pro-life statement, I urge you to look deeper. This is a poorly written bill that fails to account for the real-life circumstances many individuals and families face in their journey to parenthood. Specifically, it does not acknowledge the critical role of in-vitro fertilization (IVF) in helping people build their families.

At first glance, I may not think this bill directly affects me. But does it? Would I have been able to witness one of my best friends battle breast cancer, endure chemotherapy and radiation, and still have the chance to become a mother to a beautiful little girl? No—not if it weren't for IVF. Would I be privileged to hear the stories of friends, acquaintances, and even strangers whose dreams of parenthood were made possible because another one of my best friends helped them conceive? No—not without IVF.

These are not rare or isolated cases. Infertility and medical conditions that threaten fertility impact countless families. This bill disregards the unique and deeply personal struggles these individuals endure. Defining life as beginning at fertilization directly jeopardizes the ability of IVF providers in North Dakota to continue offering care. It places unnecessary barriers in the path of those who simply want to start a family.

House Bill 1373 does not protect life—it restricts access to care and limits opportunities for those who need medical assistance to conceive. I urge you to reconsider the far-reaching consequences of this legislation and vote against its passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gietzen
Vergas, MN