

Dear Chair Ruby and Members of the Human Services Committee,

I am urging you to OPPOSE HB 1373, a bill that hurts ND OB/GYNS practicing medicine in North Dakota and would cause undue harm to the women of North Dakota experiencing miscarriages or who are undergoing fertility treatments.

North Dakota would be better tasked with doing research and investing in preventative measures so that we start lowering North Dakota's overall maternal death rate. ND's maternal death rate is significantly higher than the national average, according to Dr. Dennis Lutz, chair of obstetrics and gynecology at University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

<https://northdakotamonitor.com/2024/10/28/group-seeking-more-money-answers-to-high-maternal-mortality-in-north-dakota/#:~:text=Based%20on%20the%20committee's%20research,%2C%20actually%2C%20he%20said.>

This bill is designed to threaten the doctors and staff at any IVF clinic with prison time and loss of licensure and jobs. The liability would prevent them from continuing to practice. Losing more medical professionals in North Dakota will only exacerbate the number of ND women who die each year from complications during childbirth.

Please OPPOSE HB 1373 and stop this assault on women and our medical providers.

Sincerely,  
Mariah Ralston