

Dear Chair Ruby and Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Dana Stansbery, I live in Casselton, North Dakota. I grew up on a farm just west of Nome, North Dakota and have been a lifelong resident of our state. I work in a school, attend church in our community and love my life in North Dakota. I am writing to you in opposition of House Bill 1373.

This bill is exactly who we are not in North Dakota. We are not the people who infringe on the rights of our citizens, and we are not the people who should come between a patient and their healthcare providers.

I was fortunate to have IVF as a medical treatment to become pregnant with our three children. My husband has male factor infertility. We were able to do one fresh cycle of IVF where we transferred the three-day embryo that became our daughter Sophie Lee. Sadly, Sophie passed away. We were not able to do another fresh cycle because my husband's sperm count was too low. Thankfully we had frozen embryos that we were able to transfer. We had our daughter, Jillian in 2013, and our son Jack in 2019. Jillian started out as a three-day embryo, and we grew Jack to a five-day blastocyst embryo before transfer.

I thank God for the medical treatment of IVF to grow our family. I also thank the providers at Sanford Reproductive Medicine who guided us in the process and helped our children be brought into this world. I feel they are certainly miracle workers who I want to protect. This bill does the opposite of protecting our medical professionals from doing their job.

This bill will end IVF in North Dakota. Providers may be fearful of giving people the medical treatments they need with reproductive medicine. With this bill the embryo will be seen as a person, and providers could be charged with murder if the embryo does not survive a thaw or grow from a three day to a five-day embryo.

This bill will take away the rights of North Dakota parents who want to grow their families and that is wrong. That is not the value of North Dakota. Some may say this bill is about abortion and the rights of an embryo. This bill will reach more than abortion rights and will hurt North Dakota families by infringing on our rights to become parents through medical procedures. There are many testimonies from health care providers, and you will hear the implications of this bill.

Please do not take away IVF from families. Thank you for your time, please oppose HB 1373.

Respectfully,  
Dana Stansbery  
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