

Human Services Committee  
HB 1373  
4 February 2025

I am writing to you today as a Registered Nurse, a mom, and a former resident of North Dakota for over ten years. I am writing **in opposition** to House Bill 1373. House Bill 1373, in its change in definitions of “human being” and “unborn child,” and without clearly defining protections for healthcare providers, will directly impact the ability for North Dakota families to utilize fertility care.

Due to the implications of this bill and its far-reaching effects, my hope is that you carefully listen to and consider the testimonies for this bill. Listen to the experts in healthcare: in family medicine, in women’s health care, and specifically in fertility care. And just as importantly, listen to your fellow North Dakota residents, including women and families who have already utilized fertility care and those who hope to use fertility care in the state of North Dakota. As a resident outside of North Dakota, it is clear the precedent this bill would set. Apart from increasing difficulty recruiting and retaining health care providers in this state, especially in women’s health care and fertility care, this bill personally raises concern about where I would choose to have children and raise my children. I have known North Dakota to be a place that values community and respect for others and I wish for that to remain true.

House Bill 1373, with its change in the definitions of “human being” and “unborn child,” without clear protection for health care providers performing important fertility care, will leave the only IVF clinic in the state of North Dakota unable to continue serving families. The IVF process includes many variables outside of practitioner control. Each family pursuing fertility care is doing so to grow their family, to create life, and this process should be protected and continued in the way it is done now, safely and ethically between patients and health care providers.

Please protect the rights of North Dakota residents to grow their families through fertility care and vote **against** House Bill 1373. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Pietsch