

HB 1373

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I am writing to urge you NOT to pass HB 1373. Redefining person hood to begin at time of conception puts a great risk to access to birth control, IVF and emergency abortions. Without the guarantee of birth control and IVF in the other 2 bills that would protect them, wether they do not pass, are removed in the future, or are not extremely specific, HB 1373 could remove these reproductive health rights all together. There is a legal precedent that has been used before allowing health insurance companies to deny coverage of these using the definition of human life as starting at conception, arguing that birth control can "remove" a fertilized egg and using religious beliefs to solidify their argument. Not only that but North Dakota, while having removed the choice to have an elective abortion, has continued to make an exception on the basis of rape, incest and emergency related abortions. These are important exceptions! HB 1373 would make ALL of these exceptions illegal and punishable under law. This would be detrimental to the lives of pregnant people who will be put at risk for death. It would also put doctors and parents at risk of legal recourse in the event that a life saving operation is preformed with the result of a loss of a fertilized egg. I believe that this bill is rooted in religious belief as personhood is not scientifically defined in this way. The government has been told again and again that separation of church and state is a legal doctrine in this country as well as in our state. This is one of the several bills currently being considered that violates this separation.

Again, vote DO NOT PASS on HB 1373