

Dear Legislators,


I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1373, which seeks to redefine "human being" and "person" to include an "unborn child" from the moment of fertilization. While I respect the intent behind this legislation, I have serious concerns regarding its implications for reproductive rights, medical care, and legal precedent in North Dakota.

This bill could have far-reaching consequences, including:

1. **Threats to Reproductive Healthcare:** The language of this bill could create legal uncertainty for healthcare providers, potentially restricting access to critical reproductive and maternal healthcare. Doctors may fear prosecution even when providing standard medical care, such as treatment for ectopic pregnancies, miscarriage management, or life-saving procedures.
2. **Impact on Personal Medical Decisions:** By granting legal personhood from the moment of fertilization, this bill could pave the way for extreme restrictions on reproductive rights, including limitations on birth control methods like IUDs and in-vitro fertilization (IVF). Individuals and families should have the freedom to make deeply personal medical decisions without government interference.
3. **Potential for Criminalization:** This bill could open the door for criminal investigations into pregnancy outcomes, placing an undue burden on women who experience miscarriage or complications. No one should have to fear legal repercussions for experiencing a medical event that is already physically and emotionally distressing.
4. **Legal and Constitutional Concerns:** Defining personhood at fertilization contradicts established legal precedent, including *Roe v. Wade*'s prior protections and subsequent legal interpretations. If passed, this law could invite costly legal challenges that would drain taxpayer resources and create further division within our state.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose House Bill 1373 and instead focus on policies that support maternal healthcare, reproductive freedom, and the well-being of North Dakotans. I appreciate your time and consideration on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Alisen Santer (Feb 4, 2025 12:53 EST)

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