

To whom it may concern: I am writing in opposition of HB1373, which would restrict access to IVF for residents in our state. I found out as a minor that I have polycystic ovarian syndrome; I also learned this may impact my ability to naturally get pregnant. Even as a minor, I knew I wanted a family one day, and felt fine with alternative options (i.e. adoption) if I was not able to naturally have my own. I, however, was not yet in the life state to be actually making those decisions. As an adult, I've worked in the child welfare system for nearly 2 decades, as well as raised stepchildren. During this time, it became more and more important to me to be able to have children of my own. I, however, did not have a menstrual cycle at all, so fertility treatments were my only option. My husband and I have been blessed with two beautiful children as a result of IVF. IVF became the only viable option for us due to the reactions my body was having to the hormone medications, in addition to one of my fallopian tubes questionably being blocked. IVF was the responsible and safe choice for my healthcare and to expand my family. The decisions, failed treatments, and a miscarriage along the way were all too stressful in themselves. Worrying about if we would even have access to appropriate healthcare, or if we would need to add traveling to get said healthcare out of state, is not additional stress any family needs during this time. This legislation would restrict access to IVF treatment, as well as potentially complicate healthcare for miscarriages. I will also add, it was easy to say "adoption is an option" even myself before I was directly in the scenario, but you do not understand until you are in it. I firmly believe if you feel you have the right to tell someone else that adoption should be THEIR only option, by restricting what may be the only other option for them, you should also be signing up to foster and adopt and be fine with the government deciding for you what is YOUR only option for having a family and your healthcare. I sincerely hope you vote in opposition of HB1373 and oppose further restricting healthcare options for those hoping to grow and raise a family in ND. Sincerely, Jill Perez 2.4.25