

Testimony in strong opposition of HB 1373

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

There are many reasons to reject this bill. Let me list a few important ones:

1. Voters already rejected the concept of conferring the status of “human being” or “unborn child” to fertilized eggs. The people of North Dakota understand that this is an unworkable concept. **The 2014 ballot measure attempting to confer personhood to human zygotes was roundly rejected by over 64% of North Dakotans.** This bill directly counters the will of the people. The people have spoken on this issue and the legislature should accept the will of the people.
2. This bill opens the door to questioning and **possibly prosecuting women for experiencing miscarriages.** How does a woman prove she had a spontaneous miscarriage? What if she takes medications? Or had a glass of wine? Similar laws in other states have led to women being incarcerated and questioned after miscarriage.
3. If adopted, this bill would add to the already tremendous **difficulties of attracting medical professionals to North Dakota.** Who would want to practice in North Dakota when their medical treatments may lead to criminal investigations and prosecution? And, no, medical exceptions can not ever be made clear enough to prevent this. Medical decisions don’t fall into neat little boxes.
4. **In vitro fertilization will become unavailable.** The process of IVF commonly results in a substantial loss of early embryos. Liability associated with this would make offering IVF impossible in ND.
5. **This bill is imposing a particular religious view on the entire population of the state. This bill violates the establishment clause of the first amendment of the constitution of the United States.** I read over some of the testimony already submitted in support of this bill and it becomes very, very obvious that religion is the primary motivation of those supporting this bill.
6. **Taxpayers** will yet again be called to **pay for the legal defense of an unconstitutional bill.** We should really spend our money elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Alex Deufel – District 40