

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Theresia Peterson, and I am writing to express strong opposition or disapproval for HB 1373 that would have terrible consequences for pregnancy care and IVF.

We conceived our son via IUI after three years of infertility treatments. However, he was diagnosed with a rare genetic disease, Niemann Pick type C. Which is a life altering disease that takes away all body functions: ability to talk, walk, eat, organ functions, etc. The only way to ensure our future children don't suffer from this life altering disease is to utilize IVF.

This bill directly impacts the ability to provide IVF. This bill means if an embryo being tested for Niemann Pick type C stops growing, our providers could be held liable for abortion. Or, if they transfer an embryo into a woman's uterus and it does not result in pregnancy, this too would fall under this bill as abortion. So not only would this woman, who is trying to become a mom, have to go through that loss but then she would have to face legal actions. What if this person was your mom, your sister, your wife, your daughter, or even you.

Although presented as an anti-abortion bill, this is truly an anti-IVF bill. This does not stop the loss of babies, this prevents the ability for babies to even be created. The ability to create a family should be my RIGHT. If this bill passes, I will have to tell my only child that they might not ever get a sibling. If this bill passes, I will have to tell my family that I might not be able to have a healthy baby that doesn't have Niemann Pick type C. If this bill passes, I would have to go out of state to be able to get pregnant with a healthy baby. Which is adding more costs to an already costly procedure. Do not pass this anti-family bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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