

Human Services Committee

HB1373

February 5, 2025

Chair Ruby and members of the Committee,

My name is Taylah Schroeder, and I was born and raised in Minnesota, but have been living here in Fargo since starting my college journey. I completed my bachelor's degree at North Dakota State University, and now am pursuing my career here in Fargo. I have always loved North Dakota. I am writing my testimony **in opposition** of House Bill 1373.

Generations upon generations of women in my family have struggled with pregnancy – with conceiving, with carrying, and upon birth. No woman living today has given birth naturally in my family- not mom, her sisters, our cousins, or my grandma herself. This almost certainly going to be something that I struggle with too. I am 23 years old and legislation such as this makes me debate my willingness to start a family at all, but more specifically here in ND.

Legislation such as this is **harmful** to life. It creates consequences that will be hard to recover from. Legislation such as this stunts provider's ability to provide life saving care in some situations. It would nearly cut off all access to IVF treatments for families struggling with infertility due to the legal complications that legislation like this would bring. Inevitably, it would have an unrecoverable effect on the OBGYN providers in the state. They probably won't stay to provide care in ND due to the risk they feel within their jobs. We will end up with a shortage of the care team women/families need most when family planning. The best medical treatment we can provide is medical treatment that focuses on life, but that is different in each situation, each person, and each doctor. This is a matter that should stay between patient and doctor, so it is vital that we do not pass legislation that could create challenges trying to provide life saving care to patients that are already here. People who are already born and living here in our state.

Legislation like this makes me want to leave the state that I love so much. Family planning is a choice that should be between me, my family, and my doctor. In my personal situation, I do not intend on starting a family somewhere that my health during pregnancy is not the most important thing. I already have too many health risks against me, that it would be important to have a full understand that there isn't **anything** my doctor wouldn't do to save my life. I do not need children bad enough to risk the life I have created. Please know that legislation like this is dangerous, unpredictable in terms of what care will look like going forward, and honestly, will be the driving factor for more than just me in deciding to have a family or not.

Please vote “do not pass” on House Bill 1373.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Taylah Schroeder