

February 4, 2025

Hello,

My name is Marisa Kaasa, and I am a concerned resident of Minot, North Dakota.

**I am writing in opposition to HB 1373.**

As I have not had to go through the infertility struggles myself, I have watched people I care deeply about struggle. People who would make nothing short of amazing parents. People who have done nothing to deserve the cards they were dealt. People who's only chance at holding a baby of their own is through IVF.

IVF is not a solution anyone wants to jump to. There are many steps (and years) taken before this is the best and only option for those who are unable to carry a child of their own. If this bill passes, you would be taking away the dream and opportunity of these people who want nothing more than to hold their baby in their arms.

As a mom, sister, daughter, aunt – I am worried for the harm passing this bill would cause.

This bill is so vague as to what the intentions are behind it, which only leads to questions and assumptions.

With that, I ask if religion is playing a role in this bill? I truly cannot think of a reason any person thinks that what a person does with their body is up for debate other than tying back to religion and one's own beliefs. Beliefs that should never be mandated or forced on anyone. Beliefs that are not backed scientifically. Religion should not play a part in government decisions. Religion is a choice. What a woman chooses to do with her body is a choice. A choice that should not be made by anyone other than the person going through it.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Marisa Kaasa

Minot, ND