

February 4, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Tracy Beck, and I am writing to express my opposition for HB 1373.

I'm the mother of three daughters and a grandmother to one beautiful granddaughter. Two of my daughters have known issues with infertility. One daughter and her husband have chosen not to go through infertility treatment for several personal reasons. My youngest daughter and her husband have been going through various infertility treatments for the past 12 years. After several years of unsuccessful treatment options, they explored IVF. It is only due to their access to IVF that, with great happiness and love, we are now blessed with a granddaughter.

As a mother, it is very difficult to watch your daughter go through so much emotional heartache. This was never their chosen path, but it is what they've had to endure. And when IVF is at risk, it only increases the fear and emotional trauma for women trying to have a child. HB 1373 does just that. Bills that determine that life begins at fertilization always threaten the availability and legality of IVF. These individuals and couples do not need anything else being added to what is already an emotional rollercoaster, therefore HB 1373 should not be allowed to pass.

I have read some of the testimony being presented for this bill. Everyone has their beliefs and idealisms and, unfortunately, I believe these get misunderstood on both sides. However, no individual or couple ever wishes to endure infertility; it is a very personal and soul-searching emotional rollercoaster for them. Therefore, no one else should be allowed a say in what treatment they should or can have access to.

No matter how anyone interprets this bill, it will cause more confusion and unintended consequences for individuals trying to have a child of their own. Whatever your beliefs, religious or political, those beliefs should not interfere with an individual's rights to build a family.

I am asking that you vote NO on HB 1373.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tracy Beck
District 30
Bismarck