

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee:

I am writing today in **opposition of HB1373**.

My wife and I are currently undergoing IVF treatment in North Dakota. We are both medical professionals and staunchly oppose this bill. The IVF process is difficult, expensive, and often frustrating. We don't need our government making it even more confusing and unnecessarily complicated.

I understand the perceived goal of this bill is to further erode Women's Healthcare in this state and across the country by taking away a woman's right to her own body. However, I do not believe the goal is to criminalize healthcare professionals and future parents who wish to create or expand their families. North Dakota needs to grow its population in order to thrive in the future, not put up roadblocks to its citizens who wish to start families. At the very least, this bill needs to be re-written to take into account the enormous effect it would have on future families across the state and surrounding region. The only logical conclusion to a bill such as this is the criminality of IVF; as seen in Alabama - and I don't know about you, but I don't want North Dakota to become Alabama. We love this state, and would like to start our family here, but laws like this tarnish its beauty.

Consider this addendum:

2. a. Acts performed under the usual and customary standards of medical practice ~~during diagnostic testing;~~

Thank you for your consideration in voting **IN OPPOSITION of HB1373**