

February 4, 2025

Chair Ruby & Members of the House Human Services Committee,

Hello, my name is Shelby Stein. I am a resident of Plaza, ND and was born and raised in Minot, ND.

I am submitting testimony to **in opposition to HB1373**.

HB1373 would have devastating consequences for North Dakotans:

- HB1373 would eliminate access to IVF in North Dakota. This bill poses too many unknowns for IVF healthcare providers to feel comfortable practicing due to the risk of criminal charges and their licensure. North Dakota already has a shortage of healthcare providers – let’s not exacerbate that problem. Lack of access to reproductive medicine in ND is unimaginable to all women, families experiencing infertility, and those who have medical conditions that impact their ability to have children. I have a genetic mutation that affects my reproductive choices, cancer risk, and quality of life. IVF will be my route to having children, because it will allow this genetic mutation to end with me. Local access to healthcare that is evidenced-based on science is of utmost importance. HB1373 threatens this for North Dakotans.
- How and who defines what is a “procedure undertaken to save the life of a mother when accompanied by reasonable steps to save the life of the unborn child”? HB1373, if passed, sets North Dakota on the path for lack of access to emergency healthcare. There will be tragic stories of women who die because they could not be treated for life threatening pregnancy complications due to restricted access to healthcare.
- How and who defines what is a “spontaneous miscarriage”? The vagueness of HB1373 poses great danger to all who may become pregnant in North Dakota. Loss of a pregnancy is traumatic enough without the threat of potentially being blamed for it happening.
- One can’t help but wonder if HB1373, as it’s written, is a step towards restricting access to contraception in North Dakota.

This bill wastes time and valuable resources that should be spent on initiatives that improve, not jeopardize the health of North Dakotans. It is government overreach – leave healthcare to qualified medical professionals. All individuals in North Dakota should have the right to make their own decisions regarding their healthcare and reproductive rights.

Lastly, I respectfully ask that you consider the testimony of North Dakotans with greater weight than the testimony submitted by out of state anti-abortion activists/groups. They do not reside here, therefore have no place influencing the rights of North Dakotans.

Please, **do NOT pass** HB1373.

Sincerely,



Shelby Stein

District 4A