

Sylvia Bull

Regarding House Bill No. 1373

4 February 2025

To the members of the House Health and Human Services Committee Committee,

I urge a strong NO vote on House Bill 1373 which changes the definition of human being in our legal code to start at the moment of fertilization. This is extremely concerning to me on a number of levels, not least of which it creates a false equivalency between the possibility of life that a fertilized egg represents and a real, actual, living human person. Approximately 10-20% of known pregnancies end in miscarriage, and the rate of miscarriages among all pregnancies may be much higher, as many occur early on, even before a woman realizes she is pregnant. The scientific reality, difficult as it may be, is that many fertilized eggs will never become living human persons.

This bill does nothing other than potentially criminalize miscarriage and prevent people from growing their families through IVF. I cannot think of anything crueller than putting women going through the pain and difficulty of a miscarriage under criminal suspicion or preventing them from receiving needed, best-practice medical care at such a traumatic time.

Furthermore, it is a dangerous precedent in my mind to value the potential of human life (sacred as we may hold it) over actual human lives - real people made in the image and likeness of God.

Again, I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 1373. Please direct your efforts to legislation that serves and benefits the lives of all living, breathing North Dakotans, rather than legislation which causes additional pain and suffering and serves no positive purpose.

Thank you,
Rev. Sylvia Bull
Bismarck - District 32