

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing this testimony to strongly oppose House Bill 1373. I have been working in the reproductive field for almost 20 years, directly helping patients who are striving to create a family. I urge you to oppose HB 1373 so that North Dakota residents can continue to receive these essential services.

Infertility is a medical diagnosis, and patients should have access to treatment for this medical condition. HB 1373 defines an unborn child as a person at the moment of fertilization of an egg, which would eliminate these crucial services in North Dakota. This bill would significantly impact cancer patients who cryopreserve their sperm or eggs before undergoing treatments such as chemotherapy or radiation. These patients often rely on IVF services to create their families. By eliminating these services, the state risks creating additional burdens for healthcare and community services, leading to higher long-term costs.

If HB 1373 passes, patients will need to travel long distances to access IVF services, often hundreds of miles away, which can be a significant burden, especially for those already dealing with the physical and emotional toll of fertility treatments.

I strongly believe that our state's strength lies in its support of all residents. It is essential that we continue to protect services that ensure all North Dakotans have the opportunity to raise a family and thrive in this great state.

Sincerely,

Cherice Ingalls MT(ASCP) TS(ABB)