

Chairman Ruby and Members of the Committee

I am writing this testimony in opposition of HB1373. I was born and raised in North Dakota. I have a Bachelors of Science in Nursing from North Dakota State University. I have worked as a Registered Nurse for over 10 years, with the majority of that time working in Obstetrics Care. I have had the great privilege of watching patients become parents and supporting others through the heartbreak of losing pregnancies. I have also seen many patients, friends and myself personally battle infertility.

I firmly believe it is a woman's right and privilege to make her own personal bodily choices, however this is not my main concern with this bill. I am concerned that this bill will make it impossible for providers in North Dakota to offer IVF services and appropriately manage miscarriages. It is already a struggle for people dealing with infertility due to emotional, mental, physical, financial and ethical stressors related to this diagnosis. North Dakota is already limited to only one medical facility that offers IVF services, which can cause delays in family building. This bill will make it impossible for this service in North Dakota.

I personally have dealt with unexplained female infertility. My husband and I tried for 3 years to start our own family, with no success. We then went through 6 rounds of IUI (intrauterine insemination) over a year and a half without achieving a pregnancy. Our last option for a biological child was through IVF. We went through the financial, physical, and emotional burden of IVF and thankfully ended up with 3 healthy embryos. In 2022 we welcomed a healthy, spirited, intelligent little girl. She is everything to us. In 2023 we achieved another pregnancy through IVF. We had heartbreak before Christmas 2023, when that pregnancy resulted in a miscarriage. I am currently in my third pregnancy through IVF and due in April with another little girl. We are so excited and incredibly lucky and thankful to have been able to grow our family through IVF. The thought of North Dakota restricting this right and privilege breaks my heart. I hope the state I've loved and grown up with will make the right choice and oppose this bill to help others in the future grow their families and make their dreams come true like I've been able to.

Sincerely,

Abbey Haugen