

Re: HB 1373

Dear Chair Ruby and Members of the Human Services Committee:

I am asking the committee to vote no on the HB 1373. This bill could have devastating unintended consequences for families who rely on IVF to build their families. This bill creates legal liabilities for fertility clinics and healthcare providers. Please look closely to examine how the bill leaves too much room for interpretation, making it vulnerable to litigation. You can already see in the testimonies how many outside entities are pressuring this bill to pass. They will not hesitate to bring prosecution to North Dakota providers who are only trying to help build families. Please protect our healthcare providers as well as couples who want to have a child.

One in six couples struggle with fertility. This affects so many in North Dakota. Do not take this service away from them or the next generation of North Dakotans. I ask that you take the time to listen to people who practice in the clinic to hear what the impact will be. As a Registered Nurse in women's healthcare, I see the large number of women who want to have a child but cannot without the help of the Reproductive Medicine Clinic.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose HB 1373. It would harm North Dakota families.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Martinson