

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to North Dakota House Bill 1373. While I understand the intent behind this legislation, I am deeply concerned about the unintended consequences it may have on families who rely on in-vitro fertilization (IVF) to conceive children. This bill introduces significant legal uncertainty regarding the status of embryos, creating a troubling gray area that could place unnecessary burdens on patients, doctors, and clinics involved in fertility treatments.

I personally know many individuals who have faced heartbreaking struggles with infertility. For them, IVF is not a choice taken lightly—it is a painstaking, emotional, and expensive process filled with both hope and uncertainty. These individuals have already endured so much in their journey to become parents, and HB 1373 would only make their path more difficult. Instead of providing support, this bill would create more obstacles, more legal ambiguity, and more fear for those who are already enduring so much.

We must consider the real-life impact of this legislation. Fertility treatments are already physically, emotionally, and financially taxing. If this bill passes, it could discourage doctors from offering IVF services, restrict access to care, and add layers of legal complications that may dissuade families from seeking the help they desperately need. The strongest people I know are those who have walked the path of infertility, and they do not need yet another burden stacked against them.

I urge you to consider the voices of these families—their struggles, their resilience, and their right to seek medical assistance in building the families they dream of. ND HB 1373 does nothing to help them; it only adds uncertainty and potential harm. Please oppose this bill and stand with the many North Dakotans who rely on IVF to fulfill their dreams of parenthood.

Sincerely,  
Nikki Schaff