

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Heidi Weisgarber, and I am writing in opposition of HB 1373, relating to the definition of human being and person as the terms relate to the offenses of murder and assault, and civil actions for death caused by wrongful acts.

From a young age, I knew I wanted to someday be a mother. To have a child that is half me and half the person I chose to spend my life with has been the ultimate goal. Our story began in February of 2022 when my husband, Caleb, and I started trying to grow our family. What comes so easily to others turned out to be one of the most emotionally, mentally, and physically taxing processes we have ever been through.

Due to both male and female factors, we found out we were unable to get pregnant on our own. We tried so many different ideas, methods, and procedures, but ultimately, our final option was to try in-vitro fertilization (IVF) to make our dream of being parents come true. Thankfully, we had success in this process, and we are now blessed with a beautiful baby girl who will be 3 months old soon, thanks to the doctors and staff at the Sanford Reproductive Medicine Clinic in Fargo, ND.

I tell this short story because the language of this bill, if passed, will create a situation in which IVF clinics could be held liable for abortion of embryos throughout the IVF process. This would hinder the ability of these clinics to provide this extremely important service to couples and families like ours. Without these amazing doctors, we would not have the family we always dreamed of.

If you have not been down this road yourself, know someone who has, or work in women's healthcare, you truly have no idea the negative impact this bill would have for individuals striving to create a family of their own without being able to do so alone. We need IVF clinics, and this bill would effectively take that option away from families who need it.

Please join me in opposing this bill and preserving the right of IVF clinics to practice and help families of all kinds without being held liable for abortion, mirror, and/or assault.

Sincerely,

Heidi Weisgarber – IVF Mom