

Human Services Committee

HB 1373

February 5, 2025

My name is Hope Burdolski, and I have lived in North Dakota for the vast majority of my life. I consider it home, and plan to settle down and start a family here in the future. I am writing to oppose House Bill 1373.

I have Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS). This disease affects many women in the world with 8-13% of women diagnosed and approximately 70% of women who are undiagnosed (World Health Organization, 2023), which in turn negatively affects the ability of those women to conceive naturally. Scientific innovation has made significant strides in helping women with fertility issues including in vitro fertilization, but miscarriages do still happen. In a situation involving miscarriage which is already highly emotional, this bill would amplify the pain and hurt of losing a child and place roadblocks in the paths of many families in North Dakota.

I desire to have my own kids someday, and with my PCOS diagnosis, I may have to resort to using in vitro fertilization. However, with the definitions in this proposed bill, it gives me pause on the safety and legality of those embryos, both for me and my health care provider.

As a woman of faith, I do see it important to recognize that life is sacred. However, as a woman of science, I cannot support a bill that gives more rights to a clump of cells that is not compatible with life than the woman carrying them. Please don't stop my dream of having a family before it has even begun.

Vote "Do Not Pass" on HB 1373.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hope Burdolski

World Health Organization. (2023, June 28). *Polycystic ovary syndrome*. World Health Organization.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/polycystic-ovary-syndrome>