

My name is Elise Eggiman and I have the privilege to work with women and men who are seeking to create a family on a daily basis. I listen to their struggles, provide a safe place for them to cry, encourage them when they have lost all hope but most of all, I celebrate when they finally see a positive pregnancy test. I have worked my whole nursing career within Women's health. Helping them through the fertility process, educating them until their last week of pregnancy and also helping them deliver one of the best blessings on earth. To say I am passionate for Women's Health and the right to create a family is an understatement.

One in six couples struggle with infertility and that number continues to grow. Many of these couples try to conceive for years and eventually need to turn to IVF. If this bill is passed, it would limit the services that could be offered in the state of ND. At this time, women and men who reside in the western part of ND have to travel 5-6 hours, across the state, to receive care. If this bill passed, those ND residents would need to seek care even further away, causing more stress and financial drain.

I am asking the committee to vote **NO** on HB 1373. The bill could have devastating unintended consequences for families who rely on IVF to build their families. Specifically, if this bill passes, it would not provide any protection for our healthcare providers if an embryo does not develop or if an embryo transfer does not go as planned. With the poor wording and room for interpretation within this bill, it would likely end access to IVF care in the state of ND.

I strongly **oppose** HB 1373. It would cause hardships on North Dakota families, healthcare providers could not provide adequate care, and it would stop North Dakota families from creating a family.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elise Eggiman, RN