

HB 1373

Chair Ruby and members of the committee,

I encourage you to vote yes to pass HB1373. Giving equal rights to all human life is foundational for a society to thrive and live in love towards each other and the future. I'm very thankful the committee is considering this.

Although I have many more things I could speak on, I know some of the deepest concerns are for access to abortion and IVF treatments.

To address the concern for access to abortion, I'd like to say that I believe we can grow into a society that does not see their unborn children as something that can simply be torn apart and tossed into the trash. Unplanned or inconvenient, they are human and deserve the right to life and potentially born (even in the sacrifice the mother must make during pregnancy and delivery - I've done it 5 times so I do understand it is not an easy thing.) We don't need abortion in ND - we need great care for women and preborn children AND better resources and support for after the children are born.

To address the access to IVF treatments, I'd like to sensitively say that I believe we need to be more careful in how we pursue creating our own families. Since a human life starts at conception, how we treat these embryos through IVF is of the utmost importance. I believe HB1373 will encourage more cautious actions taken in these instances.

Thank you for the work you do in ND. Sincere blessings and prayers to you all.

Jocelyn Rodgers