

**Chairman Ruby and Members of the Committee,**

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 1373. This bill proposes to define an unborn child as a person at the moment of fertilization of an egg which will eliminate services that are essential to residents of North Dakota. As someone who cares deeply about the well-being of our communities and state, passing this bill will result in unintended consequences. The proposed bill fails to account for the significant positive impact that these services have on our communities today. Instead of cutting crucial resources, we should be focusing on improving and expanding access to essential services for those who need them most. I respectfully urge you to vote no on HB1373. I trust that you will consider the long-term implications this bill would have on the health and well-being of North Dakota residents.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ashley Erickson