

February 5, 2025

Chairman Ruby and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this testimony to oppose HB 1373. As a board certified Obstetrician and Gynecologist who has practiced in this state for my entire career I have served countless couples who dream and work to build a family. I am directly responsible for caring for and diagnosing those couples with infertility, a medical diagnosis suffered by so many of our North Dakota residents. Our residents should be allowed to access the life changing services and treatments that can bring their dreams of a family to fruition.

I strongly oppose HB1373. Using this bill to redefine a fertilized egg as a person is not only incorrect but also the first step in eliminating reproductive services to families all over North Dakota. This state should be investing in families, yet if this bill passes, in vitro fertilization and the reproductive medicine services will then be halted.

Families who have worked and dreamed to have children for years will be told that their diagnosis, their dreams, their family is not important enough to North Dakotans. Patients will seek these services elsewhere in states that do not have such definitions thus leading to increased burdens on those families and the healthcare system. North Dakota runs the risk of losing our incredible Reproductive Medicine Clinic and only local IVF facility. These are essential services for North Dakota families and need to be protected.

Sincerely,

Lacey Krebsbach, MD FACOG