

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

I am writing this testimony to **oppose** HB 1373. For the past 5 years I have worked as a registered nurse at the only IVF clinic in North Dakota. I strongly encourage you to oppose HB1373 so residents in North Dakota and surrounding states can continue to receive these services at our clinic. How can you put a bill into effect that will detrimentally affect layers of care for fertility, reproductive and women's healthcare that you cannot even imagine? You do not know the serious effects of this bill until you or someone you know (which I'm sure you do) needs these services or healthcare which they have the right to receive. HB1373 defines personhood to be the moment of fertilization, when a sperm and egg come together. This bill will eliminate services that we offer in North Dakota due to the risk of criminalization to our providers and staff. By eliminating these services, the state risks pushing residents elsewhere to receive these services which is a huge burden in addition to what they are already facing. As a resident of North Dakota, I strongly believe that our state's strength lies in its support of all residents and it's essential that we continue to protect services that ensure all North Dakotan's have the opportunity to raise a family and thrive in this great state we call home. I urge you to vote NO on HB 1373 to protect your family, neighbors, friends and wonderful members of our state and surroundings.

Sincerely,  
Chelsie Kainz, RN