Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am writing in opposition of HB 1373, specifically the language written: "unborn child" means an individual living human child before birth from the beginning of biological development at the moment of fertilization upon the fusion of a human spermatozoon with a human ovum.

As a woman diagnosed with cancer at 22, I was told that having children in my future may not be a possibility unless medical intervention was an option. My husband and I began trying to have a child when I turned 30, and quickly discovered without the help of any type of reproductive medicine, it wouldn't be possible.

After 9 rounds of Intra Uterine Insemination (IUI), two rounds of In Vitro Fertilization (IVF), about 40 eggs and a tremendous amount of money and tears, we were able to have our son.

None of this was taken lightly. The children we lost while attempting to have one was detrimental to our mental health, our physical health and extremely straining on our marriage. We would do it again in a heartbeat for our son.

This bill is not about families getting the chance to have a child. This bill is about religion, something that reproductive medicine is not. If HB1373 is approved with the current language, IVF treatment will be unavailable to families and women that already carry the burden of infertility. As someone who firsthand lost over 40 eggs because they did not grow after being fertilized, should I be condemned as the language is currently written? If a woman has a miscarriage due to circumstances outside of her control, should she? This is how HB1373 will treat women. How can our state consider itself "Legendary" if we don't protect the people that will carry on the legacy? How can our state continue to turn down women's healthcare when they are the ones who bring new life to our state?

I urge you to vote in opposition of HB1373. Protect our providers, protect our women, protect the families and couples that have the hope that one day they will be able to be parents.