

Statement of Opposition to House Bill 1373

Dear committee members,

My name is Brittany Derrow and I am writing to oppose house bill 1373.

HB1373 seeks to redefine "human being" and "person" to include "unborn child" from the moment of fertilization. While the bill claims to provide exceptions for certain medical conditions and procedures I do not believe these provisions will be capable of covering all possible circumstances thus, leaving ND women and ND families vulnerable and unable to receive quality medical interventions.

I believe this bill will have significant long term negative implications on medical care related to reproductive health. Examples of this that come to mind would be the treatment of ectopic pregnancies and procedures related to IVF.

My husband and I spent 6 years desperately trying to have a baby. During that time, I experienced 3 ectopic pregnancies. If left untreated, I would have died which would have left my oldest son without a mother and my husband without a wife. Thankfully, in 2023 we were able to go through IVF. In August of 2024 we welcomed a healthy baby boy. At this time, we have more embryos waiting that we plan to transfer in the future to continue to grow our family. After such a long road to finally growing our family it would be devastating if this opportunity was taken.

I am deeply concerned that lawmakers are not able to write in enough detailed provisions to provide adequate legal protection to medical providers, clinics, and hospitals which will cause ND women to lose access to life saving medical care as well as treatments to assist in achieving pregnancy. I urge this committee to stop this bill from moving forward as there is too much at risk.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration on this critical matter,



Brittany Derrow