

Chairman Ruby and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this testimony to oppose HB 1373. I directly work with patients who are working to create a family. As someone with 15 years of working at Sanford Reproductive Medicine & 13 years working Labor & Delivery, I strongly encourage you to oppose HB1373 so North Dakota residents can continue to receive these services. Please take time to interpret the wording of this bill. You have access to Reproductive Endocrinologists who have the knowledge to explain how the science and process behind the female reproductive cycle and the IVF process. There is a lot of “grey” areas in this bill. We are the ONLY facility in North Dakota to provide services for men and women struggling with a very personal issue that they did not choose. Infertility is a medical diagnosis. Do not deny care for choices couples have no control over. 1 in 6 couples struggle with infertility. You DO know someone that has been through infertility issues and/or IVF. HB1373 defines an unborn child as a person at the moment of fertilization of an egg which will eliminate these services to be offered in North Dakota due to the wording of this bill as the risk to providers. By eliminating these services, the state risks creating additional burdens for healthcare and community services leading to higher long-term costs. You should be proud that future generations have access to Reproductive Medicine if needed. It should be an option for everyone. Let medical providers provide quality health care especially in women’s health. 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 state.

Reread the bill. Ask the medical professionals. Please think before voting.

Sincerely,

Angie Spokely, RN