

House Human Services Committee
Chairman Matt Ruby
Jan. 24, 2025
HB 1477

Chairman Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Brooke Maatz, and I am a board-certified nurse practitioner who has lived in Grand Forks for three years. Prior to that, I spent twelve years in Fargo. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 1477.

As a healthcare professional, I am acutely aware of the importance of access to comprehensive reproductive care. However, I come before you today not only as a provider but as a mother. My husband and I married in 2021 with the hope of starting a family right away. But our journey to parenthood was fraught with heartbreak, including two early pregnancy losses and a diagnosis of recurrent pregnancy loss and unexplained infertility.

Our path eventually led us to Sanford's Reproductive Clinic in Fargo, where we sought treatments ranging from intrauterine insemination (IUI) to in vitro fertilization (IVF). After many setbacks—including another pregnancy loss of a genetically normal embryo—we were finally blessed with a healthy, beautiful son through IVF. Without the specialized care and support of the clinic, our story would have been very different. We are incredibly fortunate to have had access to such crucial services right here in North Dakota.

I support HB 1477 because it will protect and ensure continued access to these vital fertility services for North Dakota families. One in six couples struggles with infertility, and for many, IVF is the only path to parenthood. This bill will protect healthcare providers who offer these services and ensure families have the freedom to pursue their dream of having children.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the committee to vote yes on HB 1477. It's not just a matter of healthcare—it's about ensuring North Dakota families have the same opportunities to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your service, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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