

Chairman Ruby and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this testimony as support for HB 1477.

I am an Andrologist at the only IVF fertility clinic in North Dakota. I directly work with patients who are working to create a family. As someone with firsthand knowledge and working with our patients every day, I strongly encourage you to support HB1477 so that we can continue to provide care to our patients. Infertility is a medical diagnosis, and North Dakotans should have access to treatment of this medical disease. We care strongly for the women and men of our state, and for the 1 in 6 couples that battle infertility. Please take this opportunity to show your support for your friends, family, coworkers and the citizens of your state to access these services by passing HB1477.

From a personal perspective this is also a very important topic to me. My daughter is 23 and has two very serious autoimmune disorders. Because of these disorders she will never be able to carry her own child of her own. Our clinic would give her to still have her biological children even if she can't carry them. She would use a carrier to carry her embryo to birth. In order to do this she would have to go through the IVF procedure and utilize all that this amazing options this clinic would offer her.

The really amazing thing about what we do is we give people the option to have a family. More times than not, they didn't choose to have their family in the nontraditional sense. They still get to be amazing parents and have amazing children.

Sincerely,

Joie Thompson