

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to show my support for HB 1477, protecting infertility treatments for those in the state of North Dakota.

I have always grown up with the dream of becoming a parent since I was a little girl myself. I never knew what I wanted to do in my professional life, but one thing was certain- I wanted to be a mom. I knew becoming pregnant wasn't always easy, but what I didn't expect was the long journey that led me to IVF.

I tried for years. Tracking cycles, trying, testing, and ultimately failing were becoming a norm in my life and it was weighing heavily on me. I felt like an utter failure as a woman. I found out that I was 1 in 6, a statistic that I didn't want to be a part of. I am 1 of 6 who experience infertility.

Without Sanford Reproductive Medicine, the only IVF clinic in the state of North Dakota, I would not have my daughter today. They gave me hope when I had none left to spare. They gave me the chance to fulfill my dream of becoming a parent. They gave me the most precious gift I could ever ask for. This is what protecting the rights for fertility treatments means to not only myself, but so many others in the state. It means patients who are facing infertility have the chance to become parents, grow their families, and experience the unconditional love of being a parent that I've been given myself.

People don't talk about infertility enough. We all know somebody in our lives who has had difficulties conceiving whether we know it or not. It could be our sister, brother, mother, cousin, neighbor, coworker, or friend. Voting yes on HB 1477 would allow those who are so desperately trying to become parents the protection to seek the help they need. It maintains the last shred of hope that so many, myself included, have.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lindsey Olander

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