

House Bill No. 1477

I am writing to support House Bill No. 1477 which aims to protect access to fertility treatments. I am a genetic counselor at Sanford Reproductive Medicine, the only IVF clinic in the state of North Dakota. I have worked with countless individuals and couples who have been impacted by genetic disease, either with a personal diagnosis, a family history, or a previously affected child. Fertility treatments may be the only way for these individuals or couples to have biological children, or the only way to reduce the risk of passing a genetic disease on to future generations.

Infertility is a common medical diagnosis that affects 1 in 6 couples. For some of these couples, infertility can be caused by a genetic disease. Without access to fertility treatments these individuals and couples may have no path to biologic parenthood without the aid of fertility treatments provided at clinics like ours.

I have worked with families who have suffered tremendous loss, such as couples with recurrent pregnancy loss due to parental chromosome rearrangements; parents of children with severe, life-limiting genetic diseases; patients who have watched diseases like Huntington's disease affect entire generations of their families. With treatment options like in vitro fertilization with genetic screening of embryos these risks can be reduced if not entirely avoided. North Dakotans deserve access to these options.

HB1477 aims to support and protect North Dakotans who want nothing more than the opportunity to be parents. Please take this opportunity to advocate for your friends, families, and neighbors to help protect this access.

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