

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1477, protecting IVF treatment in the state of North Dakota. I am an OB/GYN in Fargo and provide fertility services for patients in this region. When the families I care for are not successful with intrauterine insemination they are referred on for IVF. My patients and I share the same concerns that reproductive restrictions in our state will negatively impact their care. If IVF is not protected, it will force families to travel out of the state for medical care. This places an unnecessary burden on North Dakota citizens requiring this essential service to build families.

Not only is maintaining fertility services in our state important for the 1 in 6 families affected by infertility, but it's also important for our economy. Young families are deterred from moving back to our state when faced with reproductive restrictions. Protecting access to fertility care is critical for growing a family and growing our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Pandolfo, MD