

HB 1477  
House Human Services Committee  
January 29, 2025

Chair Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Dr Ana Tobiasz. I would like to express my support for HB 1477, protecting access to infertility services. I reside in the Bismarck/Mandan area and have been a physician practicing obstetrics and gynecology and maternal fetal medicine in Bismarck since 2017. I am additionally the ND Section Chair representing the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. I refer patients for infertility evaluation and treatment services and have cared for numerous pregnancies achieved via infertility services, including in vitro fertilization (IVF).

Infertility is a health condition not unlike other health conditions such as diabetes or hypertension. Individuals and families affected by infertility experience several barriers to care already, including access to physicians and other health care professionals who can provide these services, insurance coverage for infertility services is generally minimal to non-existent, not to mention the social stigma of having infertility. It takes an extreme toll on their mental, physical, financial, and emotional health.

Previous and currently proposed legislation targeting reproductive health care is adding an additional stressor to individuals and families experiencing infertility. Individuals who require assisted reproductive technology in order to achieve pregnancy and become parents need reassurance that future legislative efforts in the state will not place their ability to achieve pregnancy through IVF at risk.

There is precedent indicating that this access may be legislatively at risk. This includes other legislation introduced this session in the state (HB 1373 as an example) as well as prior ballot initiatives related to definitions of personhood. In 2014, ND voters overwhelmingly voted NO to this measure. This type of legislation would end the practice of IVF in our state, further creating barriers to this essential component of healthcare.

We need to proactively protect access to this necessary healthcare. For these reasons, I ask that you provide a DO PASS recommendation for HB 1477.

Dr Ana Tobiasz, MD  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, ND Section Chair  
Maternal Fetal Medicine Physician