

Testimony in Support of HB 1477 and 1478

House Human Services Committee

Christina Sambor, Gender Justice

January 29, 2025

Chairman Ruby and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of my organization, Gender Justice, in support of HB 1477 and HB 1478. Gender Justice works in North Dakota and Minnesota to advance gender equity through the law. Gender Justice envisions a world in which everyone can thrive regardless of their gender, gender expression, or sexual orientation. Over the years, Gender Justice has advanced reproductive rights in the upper Midwest, advocating for pregnant people's right to exercise personal autonomy and choice.

HB 1477: North Dakotans have long established our support for reproductive rights and assisted reproductive technology ("ART"), including in vitro fertilization ("IVF"). North Dakotans voted down previous attempts to pass laws that would have the effect of limiting or banning access to ART. There is a current bill before the legislature that if passed, would have the effect of banning IVF. This is not the will of the people of the State of North Dakota. 1 in 6 people experience infertility. For some LGBTQ+ families, ART provides their pathway to having a family. This committee should carefully consider the experience of the many constituents who have voiced support for this bill and provided their experiences of the necessity of ART in their lives or in the lives of their patients, and recommend a do pass on HB 1477, in line with the will of the citizens of North Dakota.

HB 1478: Unimpeded access to contraception has been an vital medical advancement and a critical part of ensuring that women have basic control over their lives. Women in North Dakota should be assured that their continued access to contraception is respected and protected. This is a simple

bill that states an important policy. This legislative body should affirm its support for and commitment to the right of women in North Dakota to exercise this most basic and fundamental aspect of their freedom - control over their bodies, and self-determination over reproduction.

Please recommend a do pass on HB 1478.