WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILLS 1477 and 1478

House Human Services Committee on House Bills 1477 and 1478 Date of Hearing: January 29, 2025 Debra L. Hoffarth, 1320 11th Street SW, Minot, ND 58701

This written testimony is presented in support of House Bills 1477 and 1478, which safeguards access to fertility health care treatment, such vitro fertilization (IVF), and contraception.

Reproductive healthcare is fundamental to the well-being and autonomy of individuals and families. IVF and contraception are essential components of this care, empowering people to make informed decisions about when and how to grow their families.

For individuals facing infertility, fertility health care treatment, such IVF, provides a pathway to parenthood that might otherwise be inaccessible. Infertility is a deeply personal and often devastating experience. IVF offers hope and an opportunity for those who wish to have children but face medical barriers.

Similarly, access to contraception is important to public health and individual freedom. Contraceptives allow individuals to plan pregnancies and protect against certain health conditions. Research shows that access to contraception reduces unintended pregnancies, improves maternal and child health outcomes, and contributes to economic stability for families and communities.

Assisted reproduction and contraception are essential and protecting them is critical to ensuring equitable and comprehensive reproductive healthcare for all.

This legislation affirms the basic principle that everyone deserves the right to access the healthcare they need without fear or interference from the government. It upholds the values of compassion, science, and respect for individual autonomy.

Please support House Bills 1477 and 1478.

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