

Catherine Benton

HB 1477 & HB 1478

January 28, 2025

This written testimony is provided in support of House Bills 1477 and 1478, which ensure access to fertility healthcare treatments such as in vitro fertilization (IVF) and contraception.

Reproductive healthcare is a cornerstone of individuals' and families' well-being and autonomy. IVF and contraception are vital components of this care, empowering people to make informed choices about when and how to expand their families.

For those experiencing infertility, fertility treatments like IVF offer a pathway to parenthood that may otherwise be out of reach. Infertility is a profoundly personal and often heart-wrenching experience. IVF brings hope and an opportunity to those facing medical barriers to having children.

Similarly, access to contraception is crucial for public health and individual freedom. Contraceptives allow individuals to plan pregnancies and protect against specific health conditions. Research indicates that access to contraception reduces unintended pregnancies, enhances maternal and child health outcomes, and contributes to economic stability for families and communities. It's also important to note that birth control is prescribed for numerous health reasons unrelated to preventing pregnancy, such as managing menstrual disorders, controlling acne, and addressing endometriosis.

Protecting access to assisted reproduction and contraception is essential for ensuring equitable and comprehensive reproductive healthcare for all.

This legislation upholds the fundamental principle that everyone deserves the right to access the healthcare they need without fear or government interference. It embodies the values of compassion, scientific integrity, and respect for individual autonomy.

Please support House Bills 1477 and 1478.

Thank you for your time,

Catherine Benton

Clbenton@hotmail.cim