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February 3, 2025

**North Dakota Legislative Assembly**  
House Human Services Committee

**Re: Testimony in Opposition to House Bill No. 1373**

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am part of the 1 in 9 individuals diagnosed with endometriosis, contributing to the 1 in 6 adults who experience infertility. In 2018, after trying to conceive our first child for 9 months and enduring 15 years of excruciating menstrual cycles, I sought medical answers. A laparoscopic surgery in February 2019 revealed and removed endometriosis, finally providing a diagnosis after years of pain. Shortly after the surgery, I was able to conceive my first child.

When we decided to expand our family, I anticipated challenges given my history. After a year of unsuccessful attempts and worsening pain, I underwent another laparoscopic surgery, which revealed significant progression of endometriosis. Three months later, I became pregnant, which unfortunately ended in a devastating miscarriage. Research shows that individuals with endometriosis have a 75% increased risk of miscarriage—a painful reality we experienced firsthand.

After two years of trying naturally, we turned to IVF. For someone with endometriosis, IVF reduces the risk of complications, increases the chance of successful implantation, and helps regulate the hormones critical for sustaining a pregnancy. We were fortunate to have a successful IVF cycle and welcomed our second daughter this past November.

However, I am deeply concerned about the implications of this bill. By redefining "human being" and "person" to include an unborn child from the moment of fertilization, it creates legal uncertainties that could restrict access to fertility treatments like IVF. The legal ambiguity may deter medical professionals from performing essential procedures out of fear of legal repercussions, limiting options for families facing infertility.

Infertility is not just a medical condition; it impacts entire families. The hope and joy that IVF brought to our family should be accessible to everyone facing similar challenges.

I urge you to oppose this bill to protect access to reproductive health care and ensure that families have the opportunity to grow despite the challenges they may face.

Thank you.