

## Testimony HB 1373 – In Opposition

Hello, my name is Jacqueline Beller and I am a Fargo resident in D46.

This bill is a complete ban on abortion and IVF.

**Abortion:** Defining an unborn child as a human at the “moment of fertilization” means that an abortion is *never* allowed (not even during a first trimester). Every situation is different. There is no way to cover all of the situations that might occur that may result in the death of an unborn child. What if a pregnant person falls down the stairs and then has a miscarriage? Would that be considered “spontaneous abortion” or murder? The exceptions listed here are also vague and do not address what a “customer standard of medical practice during diagnostic testing” might be. How would we know which instances might cause a Dr. or patient to be charged with murder? This bill doesn’t allow any sensible way for a doctor to do their job. What if the pregnant person is a drug addict who is unhoused and maybe the pregnancy was a result of rape. What then?

**IVF:** Defining an unborn child as a human at the “moment of fertilization” means that IVF cannot be used. If an embryo is created and frozen, is it considered a live human? If embryos are destroyed, is that murder? If embryos don’t take, is that murder? Why wouldn’t we support people in having children using this method? It doesn’t make sense.

I am both a parent and a Christian, but forcing someone to have a child makes no sense to me. Not allowing someone to use IVF to have a child also doesn’t make sense. While I would not choose to have an abortion myself, I don’t have the right to tell someone else what is best for them. Legislators simply need to stay out of our doctor’s offices. It’s simply not anyone else’s business. Reproductive care needs to be between a woman and her doctor – plain and simple. Women will die if this bill is passed – you should care.

Please vote NO on this bill.