

Chairman Ruby and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this testimony to oppose HB 1373. I directly work with patients who are working to create a family. As a woman myself that has utilized fertility services and someone that helps guide women each day to find the healthcare they need, this is a direct attack on women's health care in ND, I strongly encourage you to oppose HB1373 so North Dakota residents can continue to receive these services. Infertility is a medical diagnosis, and patients should have access to treatment of this medical disease. HB1373 defines an unborn child as a person at the moment of fertilization of an egg which will eliminate these services to be offered in North Dakota. By eliminating these services, the state risks creating additional burdens for healthcare and community services leading to higher long-term costs. As a resident of North Dakota, I strongly believe that our state's strength lies in its support of all residents and it's essential that we continue to protect services that ensure all North Dakotan's have the opportunity to raise a family and thrive in this great state.

Sincerely,
JoAnna Thome

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