

Regarding House Bill 1477
01/28/2025

My name is Shayna Wacha. I am writing in support of House Bill 1477. The proposed bill seeks to protect access to fertility treatments in our state. As someone who believes deeply in the right to build a family, regardless of the challenges posed by fertility issues, I urge you to stand with families by supporting this bill and ensuring that individuals have the freedom to pursue assisted reproduction without interference.

A close friend of mine is currently in the process of accessing in vitro fertilization (IVF) in North Dakota. Without this care, she would not have the opportunity to start her family in the way that she envisions. Like many others, she faces significant emotional, physical, and financial challenges while trying to build a family. Limiting access to fertility services would be an unfair hardship for those already struggling with infertility, and it would prevent many from fulfilling their dreams of parenthood.

Currently, our state has only one clinic that provides in vitro fertilization services, and many residents face travel hardships, or financial burdens just to access this care. If this bill were not passed, the consequences could be dire for countless families who already struggle with infertility, as well as access to fertility treatment and care. The right to access assisted reproduction services must not be left to chance or political maneuvering. It is essential that the state not implement any law, rule, or policy that limits, delays, or impedes access to fertility treatments. For individuals and couples who are trying to conceive, this is not a "luxury" but a necessary option to fulfill their desire to build a family.

By supporting this bill, we uphold the right of individuals and families to access fertility services, make informed choices about their reproductive health, and build the families they desire. It is a matter of human dignity and the right to make personal decisions about one's future. This bill fosters a family-minded approach that aligns with the values of equality and compassion.

I urge you to support this bill and protect the reproductive rights and family-building opportunities for the people of our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will stand with families in supporting this important legislation.

Sincerely,
Shayna Wacha