



Planned Parenthood[®]

Serving Minnesota • North Dakota • South Dakota

**Briefing
Blogger Call
Thursday March, 5
11A -12p**

Call in Number:

Call in number: 1888.737.5834

Passcode: 891189

Audience:

National progressive, feminist and health care bloggers as well as some local progressive bloggers. As of now we have on schedule to attend:

RHReality Check's Kay Steiger
RHReality Check's Senior Political Editor Jodi Jacobson,
RHReality Check's Assistant Editor Emily Douglas,
MNIndependent's Andy Birkey
SDWatch's Todd Epp
MinnPost's Doug Grow

Format of the Call:

Introductions and Welcome (Kathi)

Brief Background on HB1572 **(Tim)**

National Activists behind HB 1572 **(Tim)**

Brief summary of its Passage thru the House **(Tim)**

Why HB1572 is dangerous (and why it's not just about abortion) **(Tim)**

What we are doing to fight it **(Tim/Amy)**

Next steps /when will the bill be heard in the senate/then what? **(Tim)**

Q and A

Close-promise to keep them in the loop as we find out more. **(Kathi)**

Key Messages to Communicate:

HB 1572 was crafted as a vehicle to challenge Roe v Wade. The bill's author, Dan Ruby, has been clear about this.

HB 1572 is intrusive, dangerous and simply goes too far.

This bill could impact literally thousands of laws—from when property rights are granted, to inheritance rights, to who can file a lawsuit.

It Puts the Government, Lawyers, and the Courts Into Our Personal Lives

It would affect important life decisions that should be made by women, their doctors, and families--not politicians.

A woman should make decisions about her reproductive health with her doctor and family without governmental interference.

HB 1572 Could Impact Literally Thousands of Laws

HB1572 would be a legal nightmare.

HB1572 could allow lawyers and the courts to reinterpret North Dakota laws and regulations that contain the word “person.” It could impact literally thousands of laws—from when property rights are granted, to inheritance rights, to access to the courts.

Because of its broad implications, this amendment could clog our courts and allow for lawsuits against anyone associated with a woman's health. It goes too far.

This measure would ban all abortion—even in the cases of rape or incest victims or when the life of the woman is at risk.

By giving legal rights to fertilized eggs, this amendment threatens stem cell research, in vitro fertilization, common birth control methods (like the Pill), and access to emergency contraception for rape and incest victims.

It would put the government in charge of important personal health care decisions.

It has far-reaching consequences on important life decisions.

Emergency contraception for rape and incest victims would be banned.

By giving legal rights to fertilized eggs HB 1572 could ban birth control options like the Pill and IUD's. (These kinds of birth control can prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus.)

It would ban all abortion, even for rape and incest victims or to save the life of the woman.

In vitro fertilization could be banned since fertilized eggs used in these processes would have full legal rights.

Establishing rights from the moment of fertilization would ban some stem cell research being used to find cures for chronic disease and disabilities.

A woman with cancer could be denied access to life saving medical treatment because it could endanger a fertilized egg.

FAQ's

1.) What is HB 1572?

HB 1572 is a bill backed by national activist groups intent on making North Dakota the epicenter of a heated national debate. It is a broad and sweeping bill that could affect literally thousands of North Dakota laws and put the government, lawyers and the courts into the personal lives of North Dakota families. It just goes too far.

2.) What does HB 1572 state?

SECTION 1. References to individual, person, or human being - Legislative intent. For purposes of interpretation of the constitution and laws of North Dakota, it is the intent of the legislative assembly that an individual, a person, when the context indicates that a reference to an individual is intended, or a human being includes any organism with the genome of homo sapiens.

SECTION 2. STATE TO DEFEND CHALLENGE. The legislative assembly, by concurrent resolution, may appoint one or more of its members, as a matter of right and in the legislative member's official capacity, to intervene to defend this Act in any case in which this Act's constitutionality is challenged."

3.) If HB 1572 passes, what effect could it have on North Dakotans?

It could allow lawyers and the courts to reinterpret North Dakota laws and regulations that contain the word "person."

It could impact literally thousands of laws—from when property rights are granted, to inheritance rights, to access to the courts.

It would ban abortion, even in cases of rape or incest and put North Dakota in the epicenter of the national abortion debate.

4.) What effect could HB1572 have on health care?

In vitro fertilization could be banned since fertilized eggs used in these processes would have full legal rights.

Establishing rights from the moment of fertilization would ban some stem cell research being used to find cures for chronic disease and disabilities.

A woman with cancer could be denied access to life saving medical treatment because it could endanger a fertilized egg.

By giving legal rights to fertilized eggs HB 1572 could ban birth control options like the Pill and IUD's. These kinds of birth control can prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus.

5.) What groups are behind this bill?

Some of the same national activists that tried just months ago to change the Colorado constitution with similar language are bringing the fight to North Dakota. Colorado voters defeated the measure by 3 to 1.

The main group supporting this legislation is PersonhoodUSA, an activist group working to advance this type of legislation nationwide.

Q and A

Q. What will you do if it passes? Will you sue?

A. We're focused on making sure that doesn't happen. All options are on the table right now and we do have an incredible legal team looking at every facet of this bill and its potential impact.

Q. Do you think it will pass? ND is a pretty conservative state.

A. HB 1572 isn't reflective of the majority of North Dakotans. The more people find out about this bill, the less they like it. We're working hard to get the word out about the profound impact it could have on everything from birth control to access to the courts.

Q. Where else is PersonhoodUSA trying to pass this legislation?

A. Four other states, Alabama, South Carolina, Montana and Maryland, have comparable legislation pending. Activists in Mississippi and Oregon have begun gathering signatures to place personhood on the ballot.

Q. Are you purposefully trying to minimize the potential overturning of Roe when you talk about this?

A. No. The opposition has been clear and unapologetic about the intent of the bill. We are broadening the conversation to communicate how sweeping and poorly crafted this law is.

Q. If this gets killed in the legislature, do you think activists will attempt to take it to the ballot?

A. I can't speak to their strategy, but I can say that we will be monitoring whatever is next very closely and continuing to work against it.

Q. Will you run a campaign in ND like you did in SD if they get it on the ballot?

A. We are focusing all of our energy on defeating this bill in the legislature and remain cautiously optimistic that we can do just that. It's too soon to comment on anything further.

