

FAQs on HB 1572

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.

Questions or comments?

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