Members of the committee,

As a father of three girls, a Minnesotan, and a concerned citizen, I want to testify in opposition to SF1961. While it's hard to fathom the struggle some couples face with infertility, requiring taxpayers to fund IVF, a "treatment" that both ends the lives of embryonic babies and can take a significant toll on women's health, is not the answer. Life begins at conception, and it should be valued as a member of the human family, even if he or she is very small.

Most supporters of IVF don't realize the true death toll of this procedure, and this bill fails to address the massive impact of the procedure on human life. Data on a large scale suggest that only about 7% of embryos created through IVF are ultimately born alive; the rest are purposefully discarded, frozen indefinitely, or die in the process.[1] IVF embryos are discarded for a number of reasons, but the majority are due to eugenics, whether we choose to acknowledge it or not. 75% of IVF facilities offer genetic-based "screening", in order to destroy little lives who are diagnosed with disabilities like down syndrome and cystic fibrosis. A staggering 73% of IVF facilities offer screening for preferred hair and eye color. This has moved far beyond a procedure intended to help couples struggling with infertility and into the realm of manufacturing "designer babies," something that seems pulled from science fiction. At the very least, there should be limits on the number of embryos created in a cycle, along with prohibitions on eugenic selection and embryo destruction, especially when funded by taxpayers.

IVF isn't the only answer for couples struggling with infertility. In fact, it only has a success rate of 23% overall, with the number falling to under 10% for women under 40. [2] In contrast, NaPRO technology, a life-affirming and less invasive treatment alternative, has an overall success rate of 35%, with a 24% success rate for women over 40.[3] Taxpayers should not be compelled to fund procedures that result in the loss of so many embryonic lives, and couples should not be encouraged to pursue IVF when other options exist that are safer, more ethical, and offer higher success rates. I urge you to oppose this bill for the sake of innocent human life and for families who deserve life-affirming alternatives.

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[1] https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2255107/1-7-million-embryos-created-IVF-thrown-away-just-7-cent-lead-pregnancy.html

[2] https://www.heritage.org/life/report/why-the-ivf-industry-must-be-regulated

[3] https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12660242/