

Dear Committee,

I and many others I know in the queer community moved out of North Dakota due to fear. As a queer woman I was afraid to be assaulted or harassed or worse. I lived in fear when I lived in this state. I stopped going out at night, I never talked about my partner at work, and had to constantly think about how safe I was in any given situation. This is what many marginalized folk around the nation think about when they consider jobs in this area.

I was afraid if the worse were to happen it wouldn't be treated seriously. I was born in ND, I consider ND my home state, I consider myself a North Dakotan, but I'm living in Minnesota because here I'm protected and feel safe. It feels similar to the security health insurance gives you, knowing that health issues will still come up, but at least there is a net designed to protect me if it does.

I strongly urge you to vote "DO PASS" and send a strong message that our state makes a stand against prejudice, bias, and/or hate crimes by looking at the data and moving forward with progress.

Thank you for your consideration,
Faye Seidler