

Senator Magrum and Representatives: Prichard, Marschall, Rohr, the Rubys, Steiner, and Toman
68th Legislative Assembly of ND

House Bill #1332

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in opposition to HB #1332. I am a parent of a transgender person and as a citizen born and raised in North Dakota.

This legislative body has no idea the harm that this bill would have on transgender people in this state. I state that because of line #6 in the description of HB #1332 that states "Ethics - Caring for Individuals questioning their identity." This bill is anything but caring for transgender people in North Dakota. What HB #1332 does is it strikes fear in transgender people and also gives others the false idea that transgender people are confused and it is the duty of "others" to correct the transgender persons thinking of themselves. This bill, HB #1332, lacks any knowledge of what it is to be transgender as well as any empathy, sympathy or consideration for what the transgender person is going through nor the mental stress and anguish this would inflict on this innocent person who is just trying to live their authentic self.

I do NOT think the Legislators who proposed this bill, HB #1332, have any thought of the transgender person living in North Dakota but the Legislators are reacting to fear, false narratives spun by news media such as FOX News, what's been seen and read on social media such as Facebook, and what the radical religious right have touted as facts, which is not the case. Legislators need to look at this bill with what the science from medical doctors, what counselors who specialize in transgender care and more importantly the transgender community has to say about conversion therapy.

Conversion Therapy is inhumane and cruel. To take a person whom is just trying to live a life that allows themselves to be whole and tell that person that they are ill or mentally confused. To have that person be badgered, tortured by others who tell them that their ideas of self is wrong and that society won't accept them as whom they say they are but to become someone they aren't is not only abusive but terrorizing to the transgender person. This is a use of force that most definitely needs to be outlawed. No one has the right to tell someone that they are not who they say they are. How would you like to be taken against your will and told you are no longer who you are but the opposite gender? That you're confused and must be made to think differently, and you won't be able to leave until your thinking is in line with what others think? Does that sound like ethical care for individuals questioning their identity? It certainly does not sound like anything remotely close to care for anyone let alone therapy care.

As a parent of a transgender person I find it appalling that the legislators believe it is their responsibility to oversee transgender care when these same individuals know nothing about transgender people and their struggles just to live a life that the CIS community takes for

granted. How many of you talked to a transgender person? How many of you have discussed with a parent of a transgender person what this bill, HB #1332 would do to their child and family? I dare say none of you have spoken with any transgender person nor their parents.

This bill was formed to do one thing and one thing only, to eliminate transgender people from North Dakota. It is so unbelievable how the group who authored and supported this bill have not learned anything from history. This bill, HB #1332, smacks of what Hitler did to the Jews. To eliminate someone whom the authors and supporters of HB #1332 deem as a threat to themselves and must be erased from existence. Isn't that what Hitler did? How well did that work? Is that your vision for the future of North Dakota? To start producing bills outlawing people who are different from you? If this bill is successful who then would you focus on next, gays and lesbians? Is your long-term goal to rid everyone of different race, color, ethnic and sexual orientation from North Dakota so North Dakota would be an Aryan State?

Conversion Therapy doesn't work. What Conversion Therapy does do is traumatize people. It's harmful and dehumanizing. Religious radicals that believe that Conversion Therapy works are telling their followers a false narrative. These lies are harmful and hurt people; do damage to a person's sense of who they can trust and can even push someone to self-harm if not worse. Do you legislators want that on your conscious?

I strongly encourage you to talk to a transgender person or their parents. The knowledge and insight you will gain will not only be enlightening but also valuable to you as this world is not as black and white as you think but full of all different colors and shades, just as God intended. We are not all identical with one another and that's good because God intended this world to be filled with people who are different, so we have the opportunity to learn from one another and accept each other and our differences.

I strongly encourage you to vote: DO NOT PASS on HB #1332.

Thank you,

Kristie Miller

Parent of a Transgender Child and Citizen of North Dakota

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