

Dear Chair Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My testimony is in opposition to House Bill 1332. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass. I'm deeply concerned about this attempt through legislation to make ethical a practice rooted in specific religious belief, deemed unethical by the medical community, and widely recognized for the cruelty and harm it poses only to LGBTQ+ American citizens, most of whom are minors and unable to protect themselves from religious ideologies disguised as credible therapy. Conversion therapy is based on the idea that anyone outside of heteronormative society needs to be fixed. What really needs to be fixed is this idea that American citizens should have laws based on a specific religious belief imposed upon them, regardless of their theistic or non-theistic belief system. Freedom from state sponsored religious persecution via state law is something all citizens of this country are entitled to. And, in truth, if we're not protecting the right to not be religious, freedom of religion is just a catch phrase for propaganda and not an actual thing all American citizens enjoy. With conversion therapy on the table and the actual possibility that our state will endorse it, it's hard to believe that North Dakota legislators respect our constitutional rights and are truly interested in the well being of all North Dakotans. I do hope that I am wrong. This bill does not serve our state and the only outcome of its passage will be more harm to an already suffering population.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Christina Feldmann