

Olivia Data  
Testimony on HB 1473  
January 24, 2023

RE: Testimony in Opposition to HB 1473

Good morning, Chairman Weisz and members of the committee. My name is Olivia Data, I am the Youth Action Council Coordinator for the North Dakota Women's Network, and I urge you to vote "Do Not Pass" on HB 1473.

The Youth Action Council is an organization that believes in empowering younger generations to participate in their communities and contribute to a brighter future. This mission includes transgender youth. Prohibiting transgender people from using the restrooms in which they feel safe is incredibly violating and incredibly dangerous.

By all accounts, transgender children pose no threat to their cisgender peers. I understand there are concerns about allowing transgender girls in women's restrooms especially, but these concerns are unfounded. A cisgender man seeking to harass women is not the same as a transgender student seeking to use a restroom in which they feel safe, and transgender girls who are vulnerable now should not have to suffer for future, hypothetical behaviors of grown men.

If we want to build a community of North Dakotans who are compassionate, healthy, and able to pursue happiness, this bill must not pass. Transgender and cisgender people alike deserve to exist as their authentic selves in a community that respects them.

I urge you to vote "Do Not Pass" on HB 1473. Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have for me regarding my testimony.

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