

68th Legislative Session

Representatives: Marschall, Heilman, Hoverson, Koppelman, Longmuir, Wagner

Senators: Clemens, Magrum and Wobbeman

I am writing in opposition to HB #1488.

I do not understand why this is email being considered for a law. This is a waste of taxpayer money and time for the legislators to even hear.

I have had a child who attended a GSA, which is an acronym for Gay Straight Alliance, in her schools. I knew my child was going to attend and I had no fear for her to attend nor do I believe there is a reason to fear it now.

This bill is not a bill to protect but it is a bill that tries to keep ND youth from learning about themselves and also about their peers. I have always thought that schools were a place of learning, exploring and acquiring knowledge.

This legislative group is doing the exact opposite of what school is intended to do, which is help our youth become aware of themselves, others they attend school with and the world in which they live in the borders of North Dakota and beyond.

What are you afraid of? Becoming gay or transgender isn't contagious. That is a lie that the media such as FOX News, Facebook and the religious zealots such as the Family Policy Alliance like to spew but that is so not the truth.

Our schools should be a place that encourages the youth to learn about themselves even if it that child finds out that they are gay, transgender or straight. It's not awful that the LGBTQAI kids get together and talk nor is it bad that straight kids join in the group to show support and to learn what their peers go through and experience. That interaction generates understanding and empathy. How is that wrong?

If people don't want their kids to attend a GSA group then they should have their kids attend a religious school. Public schools are a place that the general public send their kids to be educated on facts not religion. Parents who fear people who are gay or transgender should take it upon themselves to enroll their kids in those private institutions.

GSAs are not evil. Requiring a parental signature for extracurricular is a way to "out" LGBTQAI youth to their parents or a way to keep the LGBTQAI youth from seeking comradery in their schools. There is no other way to look at it. This bill isn't to target the chess club or rocket club. This is an attack on the LGBTQAI youth in our public schools.

This bill is harmful, discriminatory and these legislators are on a witch hunt to seek out the LGBTQAI youth and do what they can to make these kids existence in North Dakota as hard as possible. As a parent and a secure adult, I find these bills and the supporters of these bills bullies and DO NOT speak for the majority of North Dakotans.

HB #1488

Had this bill been in place when my child was in school, I would have signed the permission slip without hesitation. This bill will not keep the kids who are out to their parents from attending a GSA nor will it make a gay or transgender child become straight. Not all parents in North Dakota think as close minded or bigoted as the legislators who designed such a bill as HB #1488.

HB #1488 is unnecessary, a waste of resources and only serves as another weapon against a select group of youth in North Dakota. That is disgusting and offensive to anyone who is a true Christian and practices what Christ taught, which is love for one another and to serve/help others.

Respectfully,
Kristie Miller