

March 14,2023

Testimony in Opposition to HB No. 1254

Dear Chairman Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

I am a native North Dakotan returning to the state in retirement. I urge you to give this bill a DO NOT PASS. I appreciate the conviction of the bill's supporters. I believe medical decisions should be left to the patient/guardian and their medical providers, not the State of North Dakota. There is a great deal of public attention given to this topic and I urge you as our elected representatives to heed the information as presented by the medical professionals and not yield to political pressure. Please consider the potential unintended consequences on already stressed health care systems and education facilities of legislating and criminalizing even the most specialized fields. Please give your constituents a vote of confidence to support our health care with your Do Not Pass vote on HB 1254.

Thank you for your time and service to our state.

Regards,

Michael J. Southam