

03/11/2023

Dear Honorable Members of the North Dakota senate,

My name is Lilly Funk, and I live in Minot, North Dakota. I am a federal employee at Head Start (as an assistant teacher). The purpose of this written testimony is to persuade members of the North Dakota senate to support HB 1362.

I am in support of this bill because I believe in the right of families to maintain their privacy and decision-making concerning raising their children. It is unethical for public schools to make decisions for children, especially without parental knowledge. Schools must not be able to keep secrets from parents about their children, especially if the secret relates to medical treatments.

In some states, educators have attempted to provide access to hormone replacements or surgery options for students who state that they are the opposite of their biological sex. This is not only morally wrong, but it presents a vast number of dangers to children including a higher risk for diabetes and heart disease as an adult, the unknown risks of pausing puberty (this is disruptive of the human body's natural processes), a negative impact on brain development, mood changes, reduction/cessation of fertility, the inability to experience sexual pleasure as an adult, a correlation to an increased risk of cancer, and even more risks.

Thank you for your consideration to make the right decision and pass HB 1362!
Lilly Funk