

Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education committee,

I respectfully request that you render a Do Not Pass recommendation on HB 1181. This bill is not scientifically accurate as claimed by the sponsor. This bill completely dismisses the existence of people who are born intersex. Often in cases of obvious intersex traits at birth, a doctor will assign a sex to put on official documents like the birth certificate. It is also less common than it was in the past to perform surgery on these children at birth. Instead parents and doctors can choose to wait until the child is older so the child can tell the doctor who they are. When a doctor assigns an intersex person a sex at birth, it does not mean that this will align with the child's gender identity. Intersex cases are not as rare as you may believe, and many don't even know that they are intersex until later into life. 1-2% of people are intersex, and they are not so rare that they should be left out of this conversation. It is simply not "common sense" to dictate that there are only 2 genders when it is not biologically true.

It is not the legislative body's place to tell adults that they must adhere to the sex they were born as. I know that transgender, intersex, and gender identity can be confusing, however I think this bill would be more confusing for out of state students in our universities. Out of state students may have their gender changed on their driver's license in their home state, but their gender in our university system would need to be the same as their sex assigned at birth. This seems like it would be more confusing for everyone involved. This bill is government overreach that will drive more families and students away from North Dakota and our universities.

LGBTQ+ people have every right to be who they are. They already live difficult lives. Please don't make it harder for them because you think this bill will make life easier for you. It won't. Please give a do not pass recommendation to HB 1181.

Respectfully,
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