

Dear Committee,

As you consider HB 1443, please consider the times in your life when you were afraid. We all have these experiences whether they be fear for ourselves, our health, our safety, or our family. There are times when we are scared and I want you to for a moment reflect on how it impacted you and your life at that moment. I will keep this testimony brief, in hopes you take some time to reflect on what I'm asking.

I ask this because I and many others I know in the queer community moved out of North Dakota due to fear. As a queer woman I was afraid to be assaulted or harassed or worse. I lived in fear when I lived in this state. I stopped going out at night, I never talked about my partner at work, and had to constantly think about how safe I was in any given situation.

I was afraid if the worse were to happen it wouldn't be treated seriously. I was born in ND, I consider ND my home state, I consider myself a North Dakotan, but I'm living in Minnesota because here I'm protected and feel safe. It feels similar to the security health insurance gives you, knowing that health issues will still come up, but at least there is a net designed to protect me if it does.

I strongly urge you to vote "DO PASS" on this legislation and send a strong message that our state makes a stand against prejudice, biased, and/or hate crimes.

Thank you for your consideration,
Faye Seidler