

March 14, 2021

**Re: Opposition to HB1298**

Chairman Larson and Committee Members:

As a lifetime resident of North Dakota, a mother, and a special education teacher, I have several reasons to oppose HB1298. I could speak to the damaging effects of exclusion on transgender youth. Or, I could point out misconceptions about transgender individuals having physical advantages. For now, I will focus on the erosion of the North Dakota values I was raised on.

As the daughter of a police officer, I was brought up valuing honesty, kindness, and compassion for our fellow citizens. I remember the “Love thy Neighbor” plaques that hung on the walls of friends’ and families’ homes. My family rarely hesitated to lend a helping hand. My father has always been known for his giving heart and willingness to assist someone in need. I model my life after his by helping people—especially children—in my work and in my personal time.

I was taught that values do not discriminate. HB1298 does not fit our “North Dakota nice” reputation. Caring North Dakotans have been goaded into believing they should fear transgender children. Rather than help our kids, this bill seeks to alienate them. This bill’s language was introduced by a group of people who are not from North Dakota and therefore do not share our values. The same people are attempting to pass similar legislation in 25 other states. We must make sure North Dakota isn’t one of them.

Sincerely,

Shannon Krueger