

January 23, 2023

Regarding: House Bill 1249

Dear Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

My name is Luis Casas. I am a physician, and I am board certified in Pediatric and Adult Endocrinology.

My testimony is in **opposition** to House Bill 1249. I ask that you give this bill a **DO NOT PASS**

The reasons for my opposition to this bill includes:

- 1) As a pediatric and adult endocrinologist, I feel that this bill directly discriminates against transgender children.
  - a. I treat adolescents with disorders that affect puberty hormones including biological males who are born with or develop primary testicular failure and biological females who are born with or develop primary ovarian failure. I treat adolescents born with disorders of sex determination (DSD) where their genetics based on DNA may not be consistent with the appearance of their external genitalia. I also take care of adolescents who are transgender who do not identify with the gender assigned at birth. In all cases, the appropriate pubertal hormones are replaced consistent with their gender identification. Yet, transgender adolescents are indiscriminately targeted in this bill even though they receive the same treatment as CIS adolescents requiring hormone replacement.
  - b. The data is very clear that treatment during early adolescence before native hormones can fully masculinize or feminize the adolescent does not advantage trans adolescents compared to CIS adolescents going through natural puberty. For those adolescents who transition hormonally after the completion of their biological puberty, studies show that among transwomen competitive advantages from the effects of prior testosterone exposure significantly declines by 12 months of hormone treatment.
  - c. Children and adolescents are often treated with growth hormones to enhance their growth, often to final heights beyond their genetic potential which one could argue would advantage that adolescent in sports compared to others less tall. Yet, I see no legislative attempts to limit their participation in school sports.
- 2) As a citizen of the state of North Dakota, I have not yet heard of any circumstances where this has become an issue in high school sports.
- 3) Trans-adolescents already face surmountable challenges, discrimination and bullying by those who may not understand or agree with their need to transition to the gender they identify with. Studies have consistently shown that those who are supported are less likely to commit suicide or self-harm than those who are not supported by their peers or others. This bill is yet another attempt to bully and discriminate against an already vulnerable group.

PLEASE VOTE: DO NOT PASS for this bill.

Thank you for your time, consideration and service to our state.

Sincerely,

Luis Casas  
Pediatric Endocrinologist