24 January 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Brenda Thurlow and I live in District 41. I am writing to express my **strong opposition to House Bill No. 1254**, which would make the medical treatment of transgender minors a felony offense.

I am a pediatrician, with over 20 years of experience practicing in ND. This bill would directly and negatively impact the mental health of patients seeking gender-affirming medical care.

My practice is a 50/50 mix of general pediatrics and specialty pediatric diabetes care. In my general pediatric practice I follow a number of transgender patients. In my specialty practice I work closely alongside ND's only two pediatric endocrinologists. This bill would threaten their ability to practice in our state, and would make it extremely difficult to recruit pediatric endocrinology specialists in the future. Our state has a shortage of pediatric medical specialists and we cannot afford this risk.

Lastly, I am the mother of a young adult who is transgender. I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact of gender-affirming care for our daughter.

Please vote against this harmful bill.

Sincerely,

Brenda K Thurlow, MD