House Human Services Committee
HB 1254
January 24, 2023

Chairman Weisz and Committee Members, my name is Courtney Koebele. I am the executive director of the North Dakota Medical Association. The North Dakota Medical Association is the professional membership organization for North Dakota physicians, residents, and medical students.

NDMA opposes this bill. The NDMA Policy Forum recently passed a policy opposing the criminalization of medical practice. This policy states as follows:

> NDMA should take all reasonable and necessary steps to ensure that evidence-based medical decision-making and treatment, exercised in accordance with evidence-based standards of care, does not become a violation of criminal law.

This bill makes evidence-based medical decision making and treatment of transgender individuals a violation of law. There are physicians here today to testify as to the details of that treatment, and why patients would be harmed if it was made a crime.

NDMA requests a DO NOT PASS recommendation on the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.