January 20, 2023

North Dakota House Human Services Committee
North Dakota Legislative Branch

Dear Honorable Representatives and Committee Members

I strongly am in opposition to this bill, and I believe you should be as well. There are several reasons in which this should not be passed. One of the main reasons is the main population of people this bill affects is clearly not being represented, thought of, or considered in the passage of this bill. Specifically, around that population's privacy, legal documentation, and safety. This bill will also affect individuals not living in your state as well, transgender individuals who are looking to amend their birth certificates would not have access to doing so, despite not living under North Dakota laws. That I believe is an extreme overreach of state power and control over individual autonomy. It is also evident that those who brought this bill forward are operating under personal moral bias rather than acting in the best interest of the individuals. Exerting control over the transgender population's legal documentation based on disagreements with personal morals, is itself amoral. The government should not regulate, control, or pass judgment on how anyone lives their lives, or infringe on matters of privacy or personal safety. I once lived in Fargo, North Dakota, proudly, for many years. I no longer felt safe to reside in the state, for fear that my legislatures, and governing bodies would no longer have my best interest in their hearts. I'm extremely sad that many hard working, professional, creative, and dedicate members of the transgender, and LGBTQ+ community are being driven away from such a beautiful state because of such shortsighted fear mongering. I am proud to say I lived in Fargo; I miss it more than I care to admit sometimes. As a Trans woman, I cannot ever live there again while bills like this are happening. It is for these reasons I am opposed to ND House Bill 1297.

Rosalyn W. Damlo