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Please stop the war on trans lives.

Imagine (if you are not) that you are Catholic. And imagine that your state legislature proposes ***21 bills*** targeting, demonizing, and persecuting the Catholic community. One bans you from wearing a crucifix in public. One bans you from privately praying anywhere near a school. And one bans sale of alcohol for religious purposes, making it illegal for your church to obtain the spiritual medicine that keeps your soul alive, the Eucharist.

Now, instead, imagine that you are ***transgender***. Instead of banning crucifixes, the state wants to ban you from going outside your house in clothes consistent with your identity. Instead of banning prayer in schools, they want to ban any school accommodation for your condition, gender dysphoria. And instead of banning the Eucharist, they want to ban the evidence-based, lifesaving healthcare that has saved your ***actual, physical life***, and the lives of so many of your beloved friends.

That is what the North Dakota state legislature is doing right now. Republicans have introduced 21 – yes, 21 – bills, targeting, demonizing, and persecuting the transgender community, doing all I have described above and more.

This bill, HB 1297, has as its sole goal making it impossible for trans people to safely update their government documents to prevent harassment and discrimination. There is no other reason for passing this bill than to forcibly out trans people, in order to put them in the way of harm.

Chair and members of the committee, if you are Catholic, Christian, or simply a human being of conscience, I ask you ***please to vote NO on all these anti-transgender bills,*** and to stop this merciless, hateful war on our trans neighbors – whom, if we are Catholic, Christian, or people of conscience, we are commanded by God and human decency ***to love as ourselves.***

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