WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1297

House Human Services Committee on House Bill 1297
Date of Hearing: January 25, 2023 9:00 a.m.
Debra L. Hoffarth, 1320 11th Street SW, Minot, ND 58701

This written testimony is presented in opposition to HB 1297, which prohibits amendment of a birth certificate due to gender identity. Birth Certificates are issued as part of the Health Statistics Act.[1] If a person has had gender affirmation surgery or other clinically appropriate treatment related to gender identity, they should be able to update their gender identity. This is a decision that should be left to an individual and their doctor. There is no reason for state intervention into this decision.

Prohibition of amendments to match an individual's gender identity can lead to discrimination.

Please oppose HB 1297 and allow individuals to amend their birth certificates to match their gender identity.

[1] N.D.C.C. § 23-02.1, *et. al.*