Testimony in Support of HB 1297

Dr. Daniel Scrimshaw, DO, Emergency Medicine Physician
American Academy of Medical Ethics, North Dakota State Director
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Good morning Chairman Weisz and honorable members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Daniel Scrimshaw and I serve as an Emergency Physician in Minot, ND and as the North Dakota State Director of the American Academy of Medical Ethics. I am testifying in regard to House Bill 1297 and I respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

The sex designation on a birth record should not be changed due to a gender identity change. In my practice of emergency medicine, I have often provided care for patients who do not identify as their genetic sex (as assigned at birth). This sometimes causes confusion in the patient's diagnosis and management. As an example, a genetic female with abdominal pain may have acute or life threatening diagnoses which are different from those of a genetic male presenting with the same pain. Furthermore, it has been known to cause bad patient outcomes as reported in the medical literature[1]. Being able to change the sex on the birth certificate would only compound this issue even more and is dangerous for patients.

Again, I request a "Do Pass" on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

[1] Stroumsa D, Roberts EFS, Kinnear H, Harris LH. The Power and Limits of Classification - A 32-Year-Old Man with Abdominal Pain. N Engl J Med. 2019;380(20):1885-1888. doi:10.1056/NEJMp1811491