Dear Chair Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My testimony is in opposition to House Bill 1297. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass recommendation.

Have I missed stories in the newspaper about this? Are people at work keeping this one very specific problem from me, only talking about it behind my back? Or is this just another silly case of me being willfully ignorant and blind to the problem?

Nope. I read the newspaper daily. I have a great working relationship with all of my coworkers. And my eye doctor will tell you I have some of the finest corneas she has ever seen.

I am an *actual* normal human being who happens to have spent 98% of his life living in North Dakota. I know where I come from. I know my neighbors. I know we solve problems with pragmatism but otherwise tend to stay out of each others' private affairs that we know full well matter not the least to anyone else.

But the only problem here is that there's no problem. This bill doesn't solve anything. It is a complete waste of the very little time given to you once every two years to make the lives of North Dakotans better… and as a conservative supermajority, one would think that would be by limiting the scope of the government, limiting legislation altogether. Keep the government out of our lives, you say. But I will quickly get off topic.

Do not recommend this bill. There's no problem to be solved. It simply creates hurdles, stress, anxiety, frustration and cost — tangible and intangible — to folks who may have only lived one day in this state. Does that make sense? Does that solve a problem?

Sincerely irritated,

Ben Hanson