HB #1297

68th Legislative Session

Senators: Boehm, Clemens, Myrdal.
Representatives: Kasper, Koppelman, Prichard, Rohr, Ruby, Steiner, VanWinkle

I ask you how many transgender people have you talked to? How many parents of a transgender person have you sat down with and discussed the difficulties their child faces living in North Dakota? Odds are none of you have done either so let me introduce myself; I am a citizen, born and raised in North Dakota. I am also a parent of a transgender person. I know firsthand how harmful this bill is and what devastation this will do to the innocent transgender youth of North Dakota. I am also someone who is in opposition to this invasive and insensitive bill.

My child was born transgender. In utero, my daughters brain developed as female after her body formed as a male. My child isn't to be blamed for being transgender and I didn't do anything to cause my child to become transgender. I have sat down and asked hard questions to the specialists who treat transgender people. I have taken my daughter to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. A team of specialists explained to us the tests they would perform and later told us the results. Your bill states science, the use of DNA as a way to permanently hinder transgender people from changing their birth certificate but you also refuse to look at the complete science makeup of transgender people. You are only pulling certain biological items to make your case but you are not looking at the complete science. Your cherry picking the facts and disregarding what doesn't help you make your case. That isn't honest and that isn't giving the citizens of North Dakota a true and accurate picture of transgender people.

Transgender isn't a choice, it isn't a fad and it isn't a way to cause any harm to CIS females. That is all hype and lies spun to make the case for those who find transgender people as a threat. There is no threat that transgender people pose to anyone. I should know, I lived with a transgender person.

I sat in doctors' offices and discussed treatment. How many have you done that? I sat in counseling for many years discussing transgender issues, how many of you have done that? I also know that making the birth certificate an item that can't be changed or hinders only on a single biological marker is cruel and doesn't help or protect anyone but does make the fact that the transgender person has a vital record that isn't accurate or an accurate depiction of who they are.

A person isn't defined by their blood type, their flesh and bone solely. My child looks I an mirror and sees a female. Her mind is female and having a body that isn't in synch with the brain is difficult. Imagine looking in the mirror and seeing a reflection and yet your outward appearance doesn't match the way you feel inside. We all are born with an innate sense of self. Most of us are lucky enough to look in the mirror and see a reflection and feel complete and whole. Transgender people just want to feel what we feel; complete and whole. It's that simple.

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This bill is constructed to cause harm to transgender people in the State of North Dakota. This bill isn't a way to protect CIS people, but it is a way to hurt a select group of people. Where is this fear and hate coming from?

As an adult I find it hard to understand why adults would systematically target the youth in this state. Took go as far as try to drive them out of state or to the point where they would feel such despair that there would be no way to go become whom they want to desperately to be that they commit suicide. To go so far as to make their vita records something they can't alter, later. Is that the direction you envision for North Dakota? To be a state that only caters to one sect of people and if you're not of that select group then you're driven out. What possesses an adult to go and create such a discriminatory bill. What next, a bill against those who are taller than what you imagine an adult should be? How can you punish someone for something they had no control over?

This bill lacks compassion, understanding and empathy for transgender people. This bill doesn't have the best intentions for the State of North Dakota, but it has a malice intent. Who suffers if the transgender person has a birth certificate that is changed? The changing of the birth certificate affects only the transgender person. It hurts no one if the birth certificate is changeable.

You're operating out of fear and believing the radical right who spin lies and misinformation that boosts their agenda. Laws should be made by using facts, all the facts and keeping religion out of law making. Keeping church and state separate ensures that a select group does not force their religious beliefs on others. Your personal religious beliefs must not spill over into law making. Not everyone follows your beliefs, nor should they be forced to. You wouldn't like it if others forced their beliefs onto you.

I encourage you to put your beliefs aside and preconceived judgements. Talk to a transgender person or a parent of a transgender child. Ask them their story and listen with an open heart. As lawmakers your job is to listen to ALL the citizens of North Dakota, not just the ones who fall in line with your beliefs. You might be surprised in what you learn if you just open your ears and heart.

Kristie Miller
Parent of a transgender