January 25th, 2023
From: Gabriela Balf, MD, MPH
Re: In Opposition to HB 1297

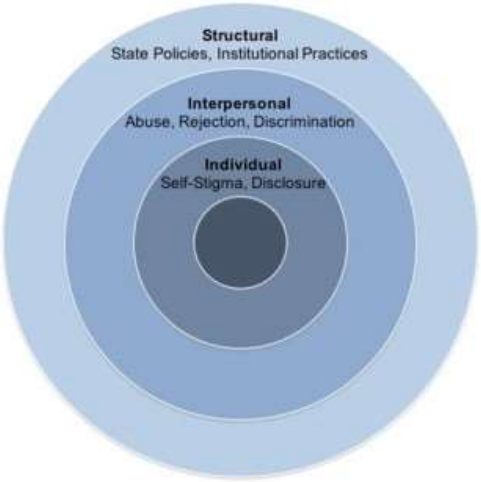
Esteemed Chairman Weisz and Committee Members,

My name is Gabriela Balf, I am a psychiatrist in Bismarck and a Clinical Associate Professor at UND, and I speak on my behalf as a clinician and as a scientist.

As a public health agent and as a clinician I need to inform you of the consequences of this bill upon this population minority. It has far-reaching effects – transgender people will be "outed" everywhere they go, even if they leave the state, the possibility talked about yesterday.

The great state of North Dakota, besides providing an unwelcoming environment for its minority citizens, will continue to gravely affect their lives, as a a life-long reminder of its disregard for science, national and international social advancements, civil rights movement, etc.

It constitutes a structural stress in the minority stress concept, that will perpetuate stigma.



I urge you to be thoughtful when you vote for all the transgender bills that are coming your way, and listen to science. 21st century science.

On behalf of our patients, we thank the House Human Services Committee for listening to our presentation of scientific evidence.

Gabriela Balf-Soran, MD, MPH
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ND Psychiatric Society Past-President
World Professional Association Transgender Health member