

# HB #1301

68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

Senators: Boehm, Dwyer, Paulson, Veda

Representatives: Prichard, Dyk, Ruby, Tveit, and VanWinkle

I am writing in opposition to HB #1301. I was born and raised in North Dakota. I am just like you but with two big dramatic differences: I believe in equality for all citizens of North Dakota no matter what their gender, race, ethnic or orientation; and I am a parent of a transgender person.

How many of you know a transgender person? Have many have you talked with a parent of a transgender person? I know Mike Dwyer has in the past sat down with me, another parent of a transgender person and Dr. Balf after the defeat of HB #1298.

For the benefit of the rest of you, I will tell what you should know but don't about transgender people.

1. Transgender people are born transgender. The false narrative being spewed by FOX News, on Facebook pages and from religious clergy that this is just a fad or a phase. My child never gravitated to what others would deem "typical" boy play. My youngest preferred to play with dolls, dress up and watch movies that my oldest was watching and playing with. Yes, we did expose both kids to gender neutral toys but you see, you CAN NOT MAKE a person transgender no more than anyone can make you the opposite sex that you identify as now. I was a farm kid, playing in a sand box with my brothers Tonka Truck and other toys. What others like to say is that a person can be forced to be something they are not is bizarre and frankly a poor attempt to negative the person.
2. My child has never deviated once since she came out to be as transgender, not once even though I have asked her. She just chuckles and says no mom, I'm still a girl. My daughter came out to me when she was able to put to words what she saw in the mirror. My daughter was in fifth grade when she came out to me. I admit, I took the news poorly. My reaction was to get my kid into counseling, and so I did just that.
3. My daughter spent years in counseling. We went to counseling as a family. It was during the counseling sessions when we learned that our concepts of sexuality and society norms are wrong and antiquated. There is in fact a spectrum concerning sexuality and to deny the spectrum is to bury your heads in the sand and refuse to look at life as black and white. Life is not absolute as our former beliefs and what we were taught as children at home, school and church is not only outdated but just simply wrong.
4. My child and I went to Mayo Clinic, there we saw a team of doctors, psychiatrists and other medical staff. Tests were done on my child and afterwards she and I sat down and were told the findings; my child is transgender with NO mental confusion of who she is. I asked how my daughter became transgender and it was explained to us that in utero, the baby's body forms first and then the brain forms. During gestation, when the brain is forming, a surge of hormones is released from the mother and this surge interferes with the formation process; causing the brain to form as the opposite gender from the body. This of course, can't be detected by the

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naked eye such as a cleft pallet, club foot or other issues that children are born with but nonetheless, that is what happens. Transgender people ARE BORN transgender. Transgender is not a fad, choice or a way to get an edge in sports. That is all lies and rumors started by people and organizations who have an agenda but refuse to speak the truth. What I say is backed by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science. An MRI image of my daughters brain shows her brain is that of a female. Males and female brains are physically formed differently. The MRI images show this and backs up what I have been saying all along, these people are BORN transgender.

5. Refusing medical care, medication, counseling by doctors, counselors is barbaric. If this passes then all people born with issues should be refused treatment of the same kind as what is proposed here. No cochlear implants for kids, no correct eye surgery, no back braces, no heart surgeries, nothing. Following the ideology of HB #1301, these people are born this way and there fore that is how God intended it to be. If you deny treatment for one group, you must deny treatment for all. It is not the transgender person's fault they were born transgender nor is it the mother's fault. This just happens, just like the instances I spoke of earlier and many, many more. This bill is a hate bill, plain and simple. The authors and supporters of this bill lack any firsthand knowledge or experience with transgender people.
6. The legislative body that is pushing for this bill is not medically trained. How can this group tell a physician that their treatment is wrong and they will impose a fine and other drastic, uncalled for measures when the legislative body is not physicians? You lack the knowledge or understanding of what the process is for transgender care. For instance, NO SURGERIES are even done until the individual reaches the age of 18. Blockers are reversable so there isn't any harm there AND the person goes through a set period of counseling before any medication is talked about.
7. As a parent, how can the state think they know what is best for my child? I am with my child 24/7, none of you were with us at home, in the doctor's office or in counseling. How can you say you know what is best for MY CHILD? You don't know her or me. The state is overreaching their authority with regards to parents and their caring for transgender minors. Would any of you like the state to come in and take your child because of what bible you are reading out loud to them? What gives you the right to think your idea of what is right is a one size fits all for the citizens of North Dakota? You don't even know what it's like to be transgender because you haven't spoken to a transgender person. You know none of their struggles, their fears, their hopes and dreams. All you think about is that these people are a threat based on myths, rumors and insecure people who believe that a transgender person is out to take something from them.
8. This bill also gives the citizens of North Dakota the impression that if you are different from what is perceived as acceptable, then those people who need medical care and treatment can be ignored, mistreated and in fact are defective. Is that your vision for North Dakota? To marginalize people so they become so distraught that they self-harm or move out of this state? This bill is also reminiscent of what Hitler did to the Jews. Hitler took away rights and privileges of the Jews because Hitler thought the Jews were the downfall to society. Is that the direction North Dakota is headed, to be an Aryan State where everyone looks the same, the same religion, the same everything? Haven't we as a society learned from history that in doing this, isolating and segregating people, only harm and mistreatment at the expense of the selected is the result. Hitler wasn't successful, thank God. Hitler didn't have the strength or moral conscious to know that his hysterical thinking was wrong, unjust let alone unfounded.

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As a parent of a transgender person and that of a CIS daughter, I can see no harm in being transgender. The harm I do see is what society is putting on others due to their moral compass. Let's be honest, no legislative body should pose themselves as the moral compass for the people they work for. It is NOT in the government's place to supersede a parent and doctors care for a minor child when that government body knows nothing about the situation. As a parent we have the right to take our child and seek medical treatment and care. The state should not interfere with this at all. No harm is done to the child. No parent is forcing their child to become transgender. Again, that is stories spun to make the false narrative work. Stop listening to those who are ignorant of what transgender care is. Religion does not have a part in state policy and nor should it. Implementing this bill on the grounds of religion is not separation of church and state. What and how you worship is your own individual liking but DO NOT try to impose your religious beliefs onto the state. I grew up catholic. I went to church, taught Sunday school even and I still say that religion is a person thing between that person and their God. Imposing my beliefs on others is wrong and it is wrong here as well.

I challenge you to vote DO NOT PASS on HB #1301 and then take the next step and meet someone in the transgender community. Get to know the facts, the people and listen to how this bill would impact their lives. You owe it to the citizens of North Dakota to do this and anything less than this is not due diligence for the State of North Dakota and its citizens.

Kristie Miller  
Parent of Transgender