

I write to you in opposition to HB 1301. It not only shows great ignorance of the current science regarding gender and identity, but also disregards the clear mental health benefits for trans youth in receiving gender-affirming care. Please put more trust into the governing bodies of pediatricians, physicians, counselors, and psychiatrists. No one is providing this care without careful assessment of their patient, without consultation with parents and guardians, and without discussion of all possible outcomes. At the end of the day, many parents prefer to have their children receive gender-affirming care than to continue to see their children suffer depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts. I urge you to vote Do Not Pass, and resist the efforts to turn North Dakota into a state of ignorance and cruelty.

Sincerely,

Merie Kirby