



**Kayla Schmidt – Interim Executive Director, North Dakota Women’s Network
Opposition – HB 1301
North Dakota House Human Services Committee**

January 24, 2023

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

My name is Kayla Schmidt and I am the Interim Executive Director of the North Dakota Women’s Network. I am providing testimony in opposition to House Bill 1301.

Our mission includes empowering individuals to take an informed role in their health care decisions. We rely on experts to guide us in making these personal choices. We trust that the care we receive is informed and will not do harm.

The expertise of a doctor should not be overshadowed by limited definitions that restrict their ability to treat patients. North Dakotans deserve to receive medical care that is not hindered by interference from the government.

North Dakotans deserve healthcare that preserves their personal liberty, dignity, and privacy. House Bill 1301 endangers these ideals. Whereas we often hear about the need to invest in North Dakota’s economic growth, legislation like this is a deterrent for modern families and workers to want to live or work in our state.

Similar attempts to pass discriminatory legislation in North Dakota has strongly been opposed by community leaders, athletic organizations, medical experts, social workers, parents, educators, students, faith leaders, representatives of local Chambers of Commerce and tourism organizations, and the LGBTQ+ community.

The North Dakota Women’s Network stands with these groups and asks that HB 1301 receives a Do Not Pass Recommendation.

Thank you.

Kayla Schmidt
director@ndwomen.org