

Members of the Committee,

My name is Joni Rahrhich and I am in opposition to bill HB1301 and would like to see a DO NOT PASS on this legislation.

When you wanted to be elected to represent the people of North Dakota, it was your job, if elected, to protect the citizens of the state. Making laws that target citizens of the state shows you don't live up to your duty. Making laws because you think something is icky, goes against what you consider normal, puts a hardship on lives, puts a penalty on those whose job it is to help people, is wrong. Almost every letter that supports your bill is a form letter. The other ones are from unqualified people who think they should have a say in other peoples lives, which they aren't qualified to have a say. What penalty is put on lawmakers who pass bills that most certainly will cause harm to transgender people who know there are laws specifically aimed at stopping their means of existence? Shame on you. Your bill leaves transgender people from having a personal relationship with their doctors. You do not belong in a doctor's office. You do not belong in the legislature creating laws that contradict certain people's existence. You were not elected to do that. This legislature is using the platform created by people who do not want transgender people receiving any medical help, any support to be administered to them, and is aimed at not caring if they commit suicide because there is nowhere to turn for help. Is that really your goal? If it is, you should have a penalty against you for making such cruel laws. As a parent of a transgender child, it has always been my job to listen to my child, to help my child, to accept my child, to help keep them from harm, to love my child, to do whatever I have to so I can protect my child. Isn't that what you do for your child? My child is no different than yours, except for the fact that you want to make a law against my child being born free in the United States, which treats all citizens with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If this bill makes it to the floor, which I hope it doesn't, when you say the pledge of Allegiance on the floor I hope the words, "With liberty and justice for all" echo's through your head and you admit to yourselves you will make a mistake voting to ostracize the lives of transgender people who need your acceptance as citizens, not as some evil you deemed necessary to

persecute to pacify a group of people who won't accept them for who they are.

Thank you,

Joni Rahrich