



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony Supporting House Bill 1473

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Good Morning Chairman Weisz and honorable members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen and I am a Policy Analyst for North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Bill 1473 and respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on this bill.

We understand that some individuals choose to identify themselves at various places on the gender spectrum, apart from their biological sex. That is certainly their right. The problems come in when their gender identification causes harm to others around them, whether physical, emotional, or psychological harm. For that reason, we believe that biological males and females should use restrooms, locker rooms, and shower rooms intended for their sex, not gender.

Parents should not have to worry about their child seeing the genitals of the opposite sex in a locker room, or shower room at a school. And this issue cannot simply be ignored, either. Physical Education is a required course in curriculum, and the issue will come up one way or another, since they have to use the locker rooms.

We are not naïve; we realize the internet exists where anyone can see any sort of sexual content imaginable. However, that is a choice to view that content, but having someone of the opposite sex suddenly strip in front of you in a locker room apparently is not your choice, by today’s standards. Further, seeing an image on the internet is dramatically different to interacting with a real person.

This likely harm applies to adults as well. Without this bill, it is entirely possible that women and girls might have to share bathrooms, locker rooms, and showers with men. No girl or woman should ever be forced to use the bathroom, shower, or undress next to a man in a public space. North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action supports the right to safety and privacy for all North Dakotans.

Section 6 of this bill refers to girls' fairness in sports. While we already testified on House Bills 1249 and 1489 this morning, we appreciate this language in ensuring a level playing field for girls in our state.

With particular reference to daughters, why should they be subjected to seeing boys expose themselves, or be robbed of hard-won sport achievements by boys posing as a girls. When did our society decide that our daughters don't matter?

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action believes in protecting the dignity of women and children, their right to privacy, and their physical and emotional wellbeing. For these reasons, we request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I am happy to stand for any questions.