

HB #1474

68th Legislative Session

Senator: Boehm. Representatives: S. Olson, D. Anderson, Christensen, Kasper, Koppelman, Prichard, Steiner.

I am writing in opposition to HB #1474. This bill is an attempt to erase transgender people from any statistical record in North Dakota and as a parent of a transgender parent I take offense to this bill.

Everyone in the United States has a right to be seen and their voice heard. You cannot go and legislate the removal of a person from existence. Transgender people exist and they do exist in the State of North Dakota. This bill would make the statistical makeup of North Dakota wrong and not correct. You can't simply remove a sect of people at whim. Hitler tried that, and it did not work.

The authors of this bill lack any understanding and empathy for marginalized people. The very fact that you want to regulate who can be called male and female speaks of the ignorance. HB #1474 mentions the reproductive body parts of a female. What happens if that person is not born with that body part but still is CIS? Nature is not perfect. People are born with extra body parts, missing body parts and some people are born with a body of one gender and the brain of the opposite gender, such as my daughter and every other transgender person out there. I bet you know of someone who is born with something that needed to have medical intervention? The thing is though, the visible differences are seen right away, and people have compassion for that infant. Transgender people only later are able to tell others what is going on. It's the same thing except one is not visible until you take an MRI of that person's brain. Male brains and female brains are formed differently and under MRI imaging that difference is seen.

What are you so afraid of? Are you afraid that the state will have a huge number of transgender people flocking to live in the state so steps like this must be taken? Are you all that insecure that anyone who is slightly different from you poses a threat?

This bill is overreaching the rights of individuals. Forcing people to use the pronouns they don't identify with, the names they don't identify with and no longer use is cruel. None of you have experienced being called something you were not at all because of the insecurities of a group of people who you don't know.

This bill, HB #1474 is malicious and cruel. This bill is totally unnecessary. The ramification of this bill goes beyond the states statistical data. This bill is opening the door to discrimination on a huge scale.

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People should be able to live a life and be comfortable in their own skin. Your lack of empathy is dramatic as well as the understanding of human nature. Everyone has the need to be accepted and cared for, the transgender community is no different from any of you except you have the luxury to having no one telling you that your confused, that how you see yourself is wrong and that the way you are is wrong and there fore must be eliminated from all state records.

None of you know anything about transgender people, the struggles they face daily. The authors and supporters of HB #1474 are overreacting to a false narrative that is spun by organizations such as Family Policy Alliance and the like. That isn't your job, to force your religious beliefs on the citizens of North Dakota. This country was founded on people who are different, coming to this country and living amongst each other and yes, even in North Dakota. It's our differences that make this world interesting and not boring. God put us here to learn from one another because of our differences. Don't you see that? Our differences should be celebrated. How boring life would be if we all liked the same things, looked alike, ate the same things. That monotony would be absent from any exciting revelation and there would be no spice to life. It's like all the spices are removed from your kitchens and all we ever had was pepper.

The state cannot govern their citizens out of fear and because of what FOX News or what any other short-sighted entity says. Letting misinformation and rumors dictate state policy is detrimental to the citizens of this state. Do you think people will folk here to live if you put in place policy that excludes transgender people? Is your goal to make North Dakota an Aryan state where only people of a certain type live? I didn't grow up in a state that promoted hatred and bigotry. I grew up catholic and my mom taught us kids that no one is better than the next, ever. MY mom taught us to respect one another's differences because we all are different from each other, even twins. My mom taught us to be kind to others also. My mother got this from following Christ's example. This bill is not spun from Christian beliefs but from rhetoric spews from a false narrative and pulpit.

The lawmakers in North Dakota have to remember that separation of church and state is in the First Clause in the Bill of Rights. If it is good for Congress, then it is good for the legislative body of North Dakota. Our founding forefathers had the insight and wisdom to separate the two so why are you trying to force your religious beliefs on the citizens of North Dakota.

HB #1474 is a bill that discriminates and is formed out of bigotry with no solid background to support its existence or need. Nothing good will come out of this bill and bills like it.

Kristie Miller
Parent of a transgender