House Human Services Committee Members:

I am a life-long North Dakota cis-gender resident who is writing to express opposition to HB1474 which seeks to eliminate transgender individuals from vital statistic collection in our state. This bill is another example of an unnecessary attack on a group of people, is a waste of time and money, and is hurtful and discriminatory.

There are many reasons why this bill is wrong, but I would like to address the importance of accurate data collection which includes transgender people. These vital statistics are available for a wide range of uses including evidence-based research. Two of my children are statisticians and one works for a large independent medical research facility. He told me that limiting the data collection in the way it is proposed would make for biased research if this data was to be used. Public Health uses this information to look at health care needs and plan programs to meet them. If the data is leaving off a group of people, that would mean that they are not included in the data collection or the health assessment and hence would be discriminated against when it comes to public health policy.

This is one of many examples of bills that are trying to erase a group of people either by eliminating them on paper or pushing them out of the state. They are not going away, but these types of bills will push other talented people out of our state who want to live in an area that recognizes diversity and compassion. It will also discourage national companies that are wanting to do business in our state from considering a location that is known to be discriminatory towards a group of bright, talented community members. We can do better to try to reduce discrimination and instead try to be a state that is a trans-affirmative environment.

I would urge you to give this bill a Do Not Pass out of this committee.

Thank you,

Jane Hirst
Minot, ND