

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My testimony is in opposition to Senate Bill 1474. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.

This bill's language is unrealistically restrictive and provides definitions for terms which do not demonstrate an understanding of biological realities. The existence of trans people and intersex people, for example, is not accounted for by this terminology.

I am aware that this language is therefore an attempt to discriminate against some North Dakotans by legislating them out of existence. This is as foolish as it is cruel.

This proposed bill would not achieve anything beneficial for the state or people of North Dakota. Its enactment would curtail human rights unnecessarily, and for no purpose other than discrimination itself. To pass it would only make North Dakota a less safe place by eroding civil rights and encouraging prejudice and aggression. It is morally wrong to do so, as well as harming the reputation and civil rights of our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shane Thielges