

Dear senators, I'm writing this testimony in opposition to HB 1474. By changing vital statistics collection to no longer allow for the free expression of one's gender it is effectively cutting out a portion of the population from being able to be accurately reflected in discrimination statistics. Trans people exist. This new law would write trans people out of existence from essential data collection, and more horrifying, particularly from discrimination data collection. There is no way to beat around the bush. By no longer allowing data collection to exist that proves and accurately reflects the discrimination faced by trans people, it is in effect inviting discrimination as it takes away any teeth that we may have to combat discrimination by wiping trans people from the record books. Without that knowledge we will be at a loss in taking the necessary steps required in making this state a safer and better one for everyone involved. Deleting a discriminated group from discrimination data collection is in and of itself a form of discrimination. An act that is to its core both cruel and harmful.