

Olivia Data  
Testimony on HB 1474  
January 24, 2023

RE: Testimony in Opposition to HB 1474

Good morning, Chairman Weisz and members of the committee. My name is Olivia Data, I am the Youth Action Council Coordinator for the North Dakota Women's Network, and I urge you to vote "Do Not Pass" on HB 1474.

This bill needlessly excludes transgender people from the definitions of categories like "mother" and "father," and it opens the door to countless confusions about intersex people, infertile people, and all those who do not identify within a gender binary. HB 1474 would make the collection of accurate data incredibly difficult, especially within areas of study related to gender and sexuality. By refusing to respect the identities of those who do not conform to inflexible expectations of gender and sexuality, we would be further ostracizing an already marginalized group of people. According to the National Library of Medicine, 82% of transgender people have contemplated killing themselves, and 40% of transgender people have actually attempted suicide<sup>1</sup>. HB 1474 will only add to the prejudice and discrimination that transgender people face.

We should be focusing on cultivating a culture of respect and understanding towards fellow North Dakotans. HB 1474 seeks to further divide us. If we want to build a community of North Dakotans who are compassionate, healthy, and able to pursue happiness, this bill must not pass.

I urge you to vote "Do Not Pass" on HB 1522. Thank you for your time.

Olivia Data  
Youth Action Council Coordinator  
District 35  
Bismarck, North Dakota

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<sup>1</sup> "Suicidality Among Transgender Youth: Elucidating the Role of Interpersonal Risk Factors." *PubMed*, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/>. Accessed 23 January 2023.