

January 25th, 2023

From: Gabriela Balf, MD, MPH

Re: **In Opposition to HB 1474**

Esteemed Chairman Weisz and Committee Members,

My name is Gabriela Balf, I am a psychiatrist in Bismarck and a Clinical Associate Professor at UND, and I speak on my behalf as a clinician and as a scientist.

This bill:

- Erases the transgender people from existence. “If it’s not written, it doesn’t count.”

In its functioning, a state needs a count of their citizens (census has existed for six millennia for a reason.) When vital statistics are manipulated this way, it becomes a powerful **eugenics** tool.

- This bill prevents a day like yesterday from happening again. If we physicians and scientists **don’t have data to present you**, how would you know that there are transgender people who are your constituents, who have needs and rights?
- As a scientist I am appalled that I am blocked from doing my job, which is to bring you the data that you need to think through when addressing the needs and rights of this population, about two thousand of your constituents.

I urge you to be thoughtful when you vote for all the transgender bills that are coming your way, and listen to science.

On behalf of our patients, we thank the House Human Services Committee for listening to our presentation of scientific evidence.



Gabriela Balf-Soran, MD, MPH

Assoc Clin Prof – UND School of Medicine – Behavioral Sciences and Psychiatry Dept

ND Psychiatric Society Past-President

World Professional Association Transgender Health member