

# HB #1489

68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session

Senators: Estenson, Myrdal, Paulson, Wobbeman

Representatives: Koppelman, Louser, Meier, Novak, S. Olson, Steiner, VanWinkle

I am writing in opposition to HB #1489. This bill is lacking knowledge and true understanding of what transgender is. The authors of this bill not only doesn't know the science of what transgender is but also the process that a transgender person goes through to become whole.

How many transgender people do you know? How many parents have you sat down with and listened to their story? Very few if any have. What this bill is doing is discriminating against a protected class of people that you just refuse to understand. If you all have any true willingness to learn about transgender people you would have reached out and taken advantage of opportunities when people such as myself have reached out to talk to a Senator. Had the Senator really wanted to learn and understand, the meeting would have taken place instead of avoiding a conversation and learning about the issue. People should NEVER stop wanting to learn and evolve. Only those who want to live in fear will not take the necessary steps to become enlightened.

College is a time to learn to think for yourself, to learn that people are very diverse and different than those who live in your little home town. Colleges have people from different states and even different countries. What an opportunity to learn about people you have never been exposed to living in a small town in North Dakota.

This bill is cruel because it takes away the opportunity to play at a higher level in sports. There has not been any incident in which a transgender college athlete has dominated a sport. Not one! You're making an issue where there isn't an issue. The governing body which handles college sports already has guidelines in place for transgender college athletes. So why are you trying to remove sports from transgender athletes? Fear and fake news. Laws should be made concerning facts not myths, rumors and what people who are not experts say, that would be classified as gossip.

The harm this bill will do to transgender people is unjust and unfounded. The college coaches know more about this issue than yourselves, so let the college coaches do their job.

What will this bill do to those teams who want to come into North Dakota and play sports but have transgender athletes? What about the backlash of this bill? This could keep North Dakota sports teams from playing teams they really want to play. Teams who would come to North Dakota to play and compete will not come and engage with the colleges of North Dakota because of the anti-transgender climate that this bill and all the other bills give the state. This bill doesn't do anything but hurt everyone. Is that your vision for the colleges in North Dakota and their athletes?

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None of you are doctors so you know nothing of the process of which a transgender person must take. Had you learned and talked to doctors who treat transgender people you would see that there is no edge that the transgender person has on the CIS athlete. Also, what about the sports that are co-ed?

I can't stress enough that knowledge is power. I encourage all of you to reach out and talk to the doctors and transgender community. Take interest in the transgender community and that is then when you see that there is nothing to fear. You will realize that we all are children of God and that this is not the way to treat a group of Gods children. Also, you shouldn't judge transgender people. Judgement is to be left to God and God only. Your hunt to seek out and destroy transgender people reminds me of what Hitler did to the Jews. In Hitler's eyes, the Jews were the ruin of the world. Everything that was wrong was done or caused by Jews. Jews must be controlled, kept marginalized as much as possible and then he tried to erased Jews. Is that your vision for North Dakota? To become a state that is Aryan?

Learn the facts before you vote. That is the responsible thing to do and you owe it to all the citizens of North Dakota, especially those who are transgender.

Kristie Miller  
Parent of a transgender