

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1522

I am writing in opposition to HB 1522. For the love of God, leave trans kids alone. For the many reasons listed in other testimony for other bills targeting trans folks and others in the LGBTQIA+, this is yet another harmful bill that tries to solve a problem that doesn't exist. Along with wasting the legislature's time, this bill is just another in a long list that is based in fear of what people don't understand. There are 8 billion people in the world and not all of them will fit into the small, rigid boxes you try to create for them. Our schools should be trusted to care for their students in ways they deem appropriate.

Frankly, I also find it embarrassing that some of our elected officials have fallen for the widely debunked and discredited school yard myth of litter boxes in school bathrooms. This bill's line, "that caters to a student's perception of being any animal species" shows how susceptible some in our legislature are to falling for the "fake news" they take in from certain radio, TV, internet personalities.

I believe these issues of accommodating children's needs should be left to the discretion and wisdom of parents and teachers, not legislated by misinformed elected officials. Rather than working on ways to exclude students and make life more challenging for trans kids, we should be finding ways to support and care for them, just like we do for all other kids. Parents and teachers want what we all want their kids to know they are loved and included. This bill does nothing but impose unnecessary and discriminatory rules.

Perhaps we should work on funding our schools, so they have working restrooms, adequate safety measures, healthy teachers, climate controlled rooms, and relevant technology for learning. These seem like worthy things we should be focusing our attention on.

I wish the legislatures who proposed this bill would take some time to talk with some transgender kids and their parents, so they could hear about the pain, discrimination, and fear they face nearly every day. Bills like this, and many others, being put forward are just another way North Dakota seems to be saying to trans children and those who love them, that they are not welcome here.

This is not the North Dakota I want to live in. Please vote "No" on HB I want to live in a state that welcomes all of God's children and who work towards budding communities of inclusion and diversity. This bill is the opposite of that.

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