

Dear Chair Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My testimony is in opposition to House Bill 1249. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.

The reason for this is that I am against bills that endorse discrimination as policy. This bill hurts our state as it intrudes on individual liberties and causes actual harm to LGBTQ+ people in North Dakota, contributing to higher suicide rates among LGBTQ+ youth and mass exodus of youth from our state whether they are LGBTQ or not.

Among queer youth in North Dakota:

- 74.7% Have ever seriously considered suicide (Middle School Data)
- 46.3% Have ever attempted suicide (Middle School Data)
- 94.4% Do not talk to parents when feeling sad, empty, hopeless, or angry (High School Data)
- 72.7% Didn't feel safe at school most of time or always (High School Data)
- 61.0% Bullied on School Property (Middle School Data)
- 27.0% Didn't Sleep in Parents Home + 20.0% Have Run away or homeless (High School)

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state

Best regards,

Kaitlyn Kelly