

January 23, 2023

Chairperson Lee and Committee Members,

I strongly urge a Do NOT Pass on HB 1522. Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in North Dakota ([afsp.org/statistics](https://afsp.org/statistics)) and the second leading cause of death in North Dakotans aged 10-24. We are 16th in the nation in suicide rate. According to research by the Trevor Project, over half of trans and nonbinary youth have seriously considered suicide in the past year, and youth who lacked social support and affirming spaces (like at school) were even more at risk. Legislation like HB 1522, which actively prevents schools from caring appropriately for trans and non-binary youth, has life-and-death consequences.

I urge a Do NOT Pass on HB 1522.

Sincerely,  
Sylvia Bull  
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