

As a mother of a transgender teen in the North Dakota Public School System, I strongly oppose HB 1522. To date, my son has had a positive experience with his public school using his preferred pronouns and providing bathroom accommodations. Prior to his transition, he struggled with mental health and frequently missed school. With the school's support of his transition, his mental health has improved greatly. He rarely misses school, is excelling academically with a 4.03, and is engaged in co-curriculars. To implement this bill and require the school to misgender him and not accommodate him, would cause significant distress, increase symptoms of gender dysphoria, and make school an unsafe place for him to be. His anxiety and depression would deteriorate, and all of the progress made over the past few years lost. In short, this bill will harm the well being of my child. In addition, the bill ignores definitions of gender identity as defined by the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychological Association. Please do not support this legislation. It is not inclusive and discriminates against transgender people.