

January 23, 2023

Chairperson Lee and Committee Members,

I strongly urge a Do NOT Pass on HB 1522. This proposed bill restricts school boards, private, and public schools from establishing the most appropriate policies for the protection of their students. Students who do not strongly identify with the gender assigned to them at birth are more likely to be bullied, suffer from depression, and have higher rates of attempted suicide. Schools need to have the right to establish the best accommodations to protect their students and to work towards lowering the rates of suicide and self-injury among our students. This bill strips schools of that right and puts our children needless at risk of increasing suicide and self-injury rates.

Do NOT Pass HB 1522.

Sincerely,

Rev. Gretchen Deeg  
Local Church Pastor  
Bismarck, ND