

Dear Senators, I am writing in opposition to HB 1522. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.

This bill is a dangerous and harmful affront to the human rights of North Dakotans. HB 1522 is a discriminatory bill effectively removing transgender individuals from any sort of acknowledgment or support within North Dakota school systems.

In 2022, 1 in 5 transgender and nonbinary youth attempted suicide ([Trevor Project 2022 National Survey on Youth Mental Health](#)). By disallowing schools the ability to adopt policies in support of these students, we are doing a disservice to all North Dakotans. I believe all students deserve a safe and welcoming environment that fosters learning.

HB 1522 also makes mention of students who perceive themselves as being any animal species other than human. I believe this section of the proposed bill is in reference to the “Litter boxes in schools hoax,” which even has its own [Wikipedia article](#) due to the numerous instances where claims have repeatedly been made and disproven. InForum, a North Dakota newspaper, even covered claims of litter boxes in Fargo-Moorhead public schools where Fargo Public Schools Superintendent Rupak Gandhi stated the claims were not true ([InForum Article](#)).

I believe the mention of not allowing accommodations to students who perceive themselves as being any animal species other than human in North Dakota schools is just another way North Dakota’s transgender and nonbinary student accommodations - accommodations needed to maintain an accessible learning environment - are made to seem unimportant and ridiculous rather than lifesaving.

As a lifelong resident of North Dakota, I urge the committee to listen to the experts in the field and give HB 1522 a Do Not Pass.