



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Neutral Testimony on House Bill 1522

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Chairman Weisz and honorable members of the House Human Services Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen and I am a Policy Analyst for North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization regarding HB 1522 and wish to provide neutral testimony on this bill.

We understand that it can be difficult for some to identify themselves on the spectrum of gender, apart from their biological sex. That being said, our organization and its constituents believe that the issue should be kept separate from the responsibility of a school and its teachers and students. Gender is a social edifice that is created; it is not science. As such, if taken to its conclusion, we will have eventually find teachers and administrative school officials having to refer to students as Spot the dog or Herbie the turtle. In an effort to avoid this kind of foolishness, we support the intent behind the bill.

However, this bill applies the requirements private schools as well as public. Aside from our belief that these requirements should not apply to private schools, the vast majority of private schools are faith-based and highly unlikely to, “adopt a policy establishing a place, facility, school program, or accommodation that caters to a student's perceived or expressed gender” or other actions prohibited in the bill.

We firmly believe that it is in the best interest of all students that schools not capitulate to contrived accommodations for students. However, given the inclusion of private schools in the bill, we cannot support this bill either. For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action is testifying neutral with regard to House Bill 1522.