

Dear Chair Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,
My name is Martin Avery. I live in Fargo, ND and am an ordained United Methodist Elder, currently serving a two charge Lutheran parish in Mayville, ND. My testimony is in opposition to House Bill 1522. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.
The reason for this is that my beautiful child, Rider is a Transgender female. Since Rider came to this conclusion, she has not waivered and has been a strong advocate for herself with family and at school.

My heart breaks that Rider could be denied an education in the state of North Dakota, due to her simply living life as her authentic self. I can't imagine what it must be like, knowing that because of who she is, she is not welcome to the same opportunities as other children. This feels like a step backward for human rights.

As a Methodist Elder, I'm to "Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God." Knowing the statistically high number of suicides among Transgender children and teens, I must stand in opposition to this bill.

I do not understand how this bill will serve any positive purpose for education in ND. Rider is doing nothing to harm other student by living their authentic life while pursuing their education. Rider's mother lives in Moorhead, MN. If this bill passes, we will take Rider out of school in Fargo, and she will attend in Moorhead.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state
Best regards,
Rev. Martin Avery