

From my perspective, if enacted, this bill will cause a rise in anxiety and depression in young North Dakotans. Under section 2, subsection 2, article f, this bill would require educators to out to students who wish to use pronouns that do not align with the child's sex. Under section 3, subsection 2, article d, this bill would require the parent or legal guardian of a child to consent to any mental health evaluations or treatments.

The problem with this is that 45% of LGBTQ youth were unable to get mental health treatment due to concerns about obtaining parent/ caregiver permission. 29% of LGBTQ youth had a fear of being outed as a reason not to seek mental health treatment.

I worry that if this bill is enacted, this would further drive the youth population *from* North Dakota and would drive away any potential new residents coming to ND.

This bill will lead to a rise in suicide among LGBTQ youth in North Dakota, this will lead to a rise in mental health issues for the youth. This will create a massive fucking headache for school administrators as the number of forms they would have to process for *each student*. This will stretch educators thinner than they already are by having to post lesson plans online 7 days in advance. This will completely upend the healthcare facilities in North Dakota with the additional oversight that would be necessary to follow the law. This bill is the GOP in 2022 all in one. Anti-trans legislation, more restrictions on educators, the heavier workload on admin, and hurting our massively underfunded healthcare facilities.

Love is love, respect trans youth, and support them. If this bill passes and even one trans/nonbinary youth commits suicide, the blood is on the hands who voted in favor of this legislation.