

Dear Chair Weisz and the members of the House Human Service Committee, I urge a "Do Not Pass" on SB 2260. I think that it is fundamentally wrong, ignorant, and hateful to try and pass a bill in which it would give permission for a parent to not raise their own child, based on their sexuality alone. How dare you think that is a moral thing to sign. I am the sister of two LGBTQ+ brothers, and I am also a member of the LGBTQ+ community. I am friends with someone who would quite literally be in danger if he decided to come out to his family. I am fortunate to have grown up in a family that accepts people for who they are. It is not okay for you to think that parents should have legal permission to not raise their child if the child comes out as LGBT. The second you have a child, it is your responsibility to clothe, shelter, provide food, and LOVE that child.

I don't know what kind of morals you have going on in your head but this is absolutely cruel and unjust, not to mention the fact that this bill is also in favor of keeping students ignorant when LGBTQ+ topics are taught. I WISH that I had more education on LGBTQ+ topics when I was in school. Everything I know now, I've learned on my own, by myself. This bill will alienate students from LGBTQ+ knowledge, and will continue the cycle of hate and discrimination.

Passing these bills are only going to cause ND citizens to leave ND and never return. I love my home, I love North Dakota, but it breaks my heart every day knowing that this state doesn't love me or my family simply because we are LGBTQ+ and that we are happy to be. It breaks my heart and brings me such sorrow, pain, and anguish to see how much hate and ignorance is trying to be passed into law, laws that will only further hurt your fellow North Dakotans.

I urge and implore all of you for a "Do Not Pass." Love is love, and hate will never win. Thank you for your time.