

Dear Chair Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Aeon Axiom Carlson, my pronouns are xey/xem or they/them, and I'm a current volunteer and former secretary of Tristate Transgender. My testimony is in opposition to the House Bill 1333 . I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.

The reason for this is that this bill would have a direct negative effect on my life. I have made Fargo/Moorhead my home for over 15 years. I have lived and worked in Fargo, my children were born there and I attend many events and volunteer in the community. I am a trans and genderfluid. I am also a parent and I am concerned about the wording of this bill as I feel it demonstrates a misunderstanding of who it is trying to regulate. I have several main concerns I hope you will consider.

First, there is a conflation of gender expression other than that corresponding to sex at birth as being "prurient" or sexual in nature. When I listened to the different committees discuss these last few weeks there was a consistent concern that sex is being disregarded and that gender is to be the new scientific standard. I see the core of the discourse around trans rights and specifically this bill stemming from this fundamental concept. The trans community knows what sex is, and the scientific community is not disregarding biological sex either. We do not intend to take this from anyone. What we are acknowledging is that gender is a concept and a social role. It is within the realms of freedom of thought and speech to take on a different gender role than the one given to us at birth that correlates with our sex. Just as much as it is a freedom to see someone differently than they insist they are, it is a freedom to dress in whatever clothes in any way we choose. It is our freedom to identify more with the social gender we have chosen, than the sex we were born with. So in some ways sex and gender are related, but expressing gender other than what correlates with sex assigned at birth is not a sexual act in itself. It is not prurient or perverse. It is an expression of identity. This bill would criminalize this freedom. Second, I am genderfluid and I am trans. My birth certificate reads X. At no point am I technically not in drag in some way. My clothing cannot fall in line with my sex, and even if I were to dress as the gender that matches the sex I was assigned at birth, because I am post medical transition, it is still drag. I am a hula hoop performer and one of my favorite things to do in the summer is visit the lovely fargo parks in a nice flowy dress and hula hoop and dance while my kids play on the playground. This bill would strip away everyday joys and freedoms I have as it is worded in a way that erases and ignores genderfluid and gender nonconforming people. It would paint actions of wholesome family time in a terrifyingly dark light that as a parent is unimaginable. Thirdly, I have listened and heard an honest and valuable concern for children. This bill would take drag from our Pride parade and many public venues where children can see that we exist. Parents' freedom to choose what culture and beliefs to raise our children with is fundamental. I had been very frustrated in past years at the public and graphic demonstrations at the downtown women's clinic specifically because I felt it was inappropriate for my children to see. I followed up on it and learned it was their freedom of speech and that I had the agency to choose not to bring my children there and I believe that this is right. I respect other families for deciding that gender non conforming actions are not within their families core values, but it is infringement on my right as an American and a parent to try to control how I display and teach gender to my children. I appeal to your own desire to remain free in how you perceive others and raise your children, to extend the same decency toward a corner of culture that is inherently

a part of North Dakota and America. For these reasons, again, I ask that you vote in opposition to HB 1333.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state

Best regards,

Aeon Axiom Carlson(xey/xem, they/them)