

Chairman Klemin, Vice Chair Karls and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I would have liked to present my testimony in person, but I am unable to take time off to testify before you today. Please accept my written testimony **in opposition to SB 2231**. I urge you to recommend a DO NOT PASS for SB 2231. My husband I have lived in North Dakota for 26 years and raised our three children here – although two of our three children now live out of state. I fear if SB 2231 passes, we're going to lose more people, young and not so young, who will chose not to live in North Dakota – and we need our young people to stay here!

I am very disappointed that even though most of the testimony (43 of the 60 submitted testimonies in the Senate) was in OPPOSITION to SB 2231, the committee recommended a do pass and it went on to pass in the Senate. This bill does not appear to be the will of the citizens of North Dakota.

I concur with the other opposition testimony that has already been submitted that this bill seems to seek a problem that doesn't exist, inserts government where it shouldn't be, and could have an extremely detrimental impact on the mental health of a young person who is just struggling to fit into their town, school, or community.

I will reiterate what licensed therapists have stated in their opposition of this bill: This bill ignores the diverse population of North Dakotans and will result in loss of community members. It does not make North Dakota a desirable place to live and is not reflective of the values that most North Dakotan's hold toward their friends, neighbors and family members. I value a future in North Dakota where people are respected - if a person wishes to be called "they" rather than "she" or "he" that desire should be respected, not outlawed.

I urge you to recommend a DO NOT PASS vote of SB 2231

In grateful appreciation for your elected service to all North Dakotans,

Ann Fritz

Bismarck, North Dakota