

HB #1111

68th Legislative Session

Representative: Hoverson

Senator: Magrum

I am writing in opposition to HB #1111. I am also a parent of a transgender citizen of North Dakota. I am confused about what entity this bill refers to when it mentions International Health Regulations.

WHO, the World Health Organization, works with international and country partners to address the varied health needs of transgender people, including [HIV](#), [viral hepatitis](#) and [STI](#) prevention, diagnosis and treatment. WHO also supports partners to address structural barriers that affect transgender people's ability to access services. The countries in WHO are: Africa, the Americas, South-East Asia, Europe, Eastern Mediterranean, and the Western Pacific.

WPATH publishes the Standards of Care and Ethical Guidelines, which articulate a professional consensus about the psychiatric, psychological, medical, and surgical management of gender dysphoria and help professionals understand the parameters within which they may aid those with these conditions. This organization is made up of doctors who specializes in medical care of the body as well as doctors who specialize in the mental health for transgender people in Asia, Europe and the United States.

I am very concerned when a state governing body which is made up of mostly professional people who do not practice medicine or mental health care to transgender people in North Dakota. In fact, most of this legislative body has had any conversations with a transgender person or a parent of a transgender child in North Dakota. This legislature has no education or experience with a group of people that this bill affects. This bill is designed to remove health care to citizens of North Dakota. This bill isn't designed to protect transgender people from questionable medical practices. On the contrary, this bill is engineered to disregard the expertise of those in the medical field and put limits or barriers in place for the transgender community in North Dakota.

I know firsthand what medical and mental health care means to the transgender community. How many of you have sat in a doctor's office or in a counseling session with a transgender person? I have and I can tell you that this bill discriminates against a group of people who did not choose to be transgender, contrary to what certain news media such as Fox News, some Facebook pages and what the radical religious entities tell people. I ask you how would you like to have your child or your grandchild's healthcare removed because of the skewed beliefs of a few people? Your loved one could no longer receive their epilepsy medication, the child born with a club foot, cleft pallet, cross eyed, and numerous other conditions that a child could be born with but there was no help for that child because of someone's religious belief. Would that be ok for you? I know what medical and mental treatment did for my child. My child is here with me now. My child could have easily committed suicide, turned to drugs or alcohol or even ran away all because she didn't have the help that she needed to become whole.

My child didn't ask to be born transgender. She was born with a male body and a female brain. The doctors at Mayo Clinic explained this to me. No one made my daughter transgender. It

HB #1111

doesn't work that way. Only people who choose to either be ignorant of the issue or believe in the lies that are spewed by those who oppose the idea of people being transgender. I immersed myself in what I could learn in regards what my daughter and others need to be healthy physically and mentally. How many of you have looked at the issue from the viewpoint of the transgender person?

The vagueness of whom this bill is referring to when it states that the state of North Dakota should not enforce their policy or recommendations makes me believe that the author of this bill doesn't even know the identity of the organizations it says to disregard. The bill is discriminatory because it focuses on transgender care which is total disregard for the wellbeing of citizens in North Dakota; some of which are kids. Kids and adults that the author and most of you view as nameless and faceless people. I'm here to tell you that isn't Christian and that also isn't ethical. The legislators for North Dakota must look at the science and the entities who are the experts in transgender care. Science is key to understanding life and when the legislators look to science to prove what the Bakken can do for the State of North Dakota and it's coffers then the legislators for North Dakota must take into account science in all bills where science is given as fact. The legislators can not cherry pick what facts they choose to go by and still say that they are doing the right thing for ALL the citizens of North Dakota. The science the doctors and mental health professionals who care for transgender people follow 21st Century science. The 21st Century science is current and more in depth compared to the 1970 science that those who cite Title 9 and say that transgender people are trying to eliminate girls sports or dominate girls sports. Those statements just show how little those that repeat these false statements know about transgender students and what their true intentions are which is to be complete and whole like their CIS counterparts.

This bill isn't ethical because it was penned by people who are ignorant of the complete facts, the entire science that the organizations I mentioned are very well versed and experienced in. Also, this bill was formed under false religious beliefs. I firmly believe in the separation of church and state. No one has the right to force their religious beliefs onto another let alone eliminate someone's healthcare and mental health treatment. This bill is not a Christian act directed by Christ's teachings. Christ didn't discriminate. Christ taught love, acceptance and caring for one another. Christ also said no one is to judge another unless they wanted to be judged.

No one but doctors and those in the mental health sectors which specialize in transgender care should be discussing treatment plans and policy. None of you are qualified to discuss in depth transgender care let alone put into effect transgender bills that govern health care and mental health treatment.

I strongly encourage you to vote Do NOT PASS on HB #1111.

Kristie Miller
Parent of a transgender