

Dear Chair Lee and honorable members of the Senate Human Services Committee. I'm writing to urge that you vote "**Do Not Pass**" on this bill.

I would like to [summarize Darin Meschke](#), State Registrar and Director of Vital Records for the Department of Health and Human Services, who provided comment during the House Human Service Committee bill hearing.

1. The Vital Records Department is required to indicate sex on birth certificate as part of the 2003 Birth Certificate Guidelines as determined by National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
2. This law would not change current process as sex is already required to be entered

I have spoken to Director Meschke on several occasions over the years and can assure the Senate Human Service Committee that the Department of Vital Records is steadfast in following the guidelines set forth by the NCHS.

Everything the bill sponsors hope this bill does, we already do and we do for a very specific reason as determined by and to stay consistent with national guidelines. The only thing this bill would do is put the current practice needlessly into law. What this means is that if there was a change to NCHS policy, we as North Dakota could not follow it unless we pass another bill.

As it stands this bill serves no identifiable benefit and only sets us up to become non-compliant to NCHS standards if they ever change. The sponsors have also added in a definition of sex that is not consistent with the determinations made by doctors and would likely cause issues within hospitals. (I invite you to look through the testimony submitted by our pediatric endocrinologists on this matter.)

I believe that support in favor of this bill has misunderstood what this bill seeks to change within our century code. The conversations they want to have are found in HB [1297](#). We call it "sex assigned at birth" as we all agree on this designation and the usefulness of it. While intersex would be an important sex classification to add, the notion that non-binary would be used as an assignment of "sex at birth" is completely unfounded.

I support NCHS as the leading voice in vital data collection and essential for consistent records not just in North Dakota, but for our entire country. It is for these reasons I urge "Do Not Pass."

Thank you for your time and service to our state!
Faye Seidler