NORTH DAKOTA
Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION
Faith · Family · Freedom

Testimony Supporting House Bill 1297

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Good morning Madam Chair Lee and honorable members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Mark Jorritsma and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Bill 1297 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this bill.

A birth certificate is inarguably one of the most foundational documents a citizen must have, for a multitude of reasons. There is ample evidence that birth certificates or their equivalent have been in existence for millennia, and given their importance, one would assume that they would in large part be somewhat insulated from the popular societal notions of our day. Unfortunately, that would be wrong.

A fundamental truth that must be recognized is that biological sex ("sex") and gender are very different things. Common sense, the medical community, and even our friends at Planned Parenthood recognize that biological sex and gender are different.

> *It's common for people to confuse sex, gender, and gender identity. But they're actually all different things*
>
> ***Sex is a label — male or female — that you're assigned by a doctor at birth based on the genitals you're born with and the chromosomes you have. It goes on your birth certificate.*** *[bolded for emphasis]*
>
> *Gender is much more complex: It's a social and legal status, and set of expectations from society, about behaviors, characteristics, and thoughts.*
>
> *– Planned Parenthood, Sex and Gender Identity website page*

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That said, it is now possible in a number of states to request a “non-binary birth certificate”.

> *As the views of Americans on gender shift, so do the laws across the country —albeit, gradually. In more than 10 states, it is now possible to request a non-binary birth certificate or amend an existing one.*
>
> *The term non-binary includes any person who does not identify with a gender that falls within the traditional male/female or man/woman category. – www.usbirthcertificates.com*

Do you see the problem? Birth certificates are being used to indicate gender, not sex, even though sex is based upon undeniable scientific fact, but gender is based upon a social construct.

House Bill 1297 simply seeks to ensure that sex is indicated on a birth certificate. We realize that every person has defining biological characteristics that identify them as male or female and we want to ensure there is an official foundational document indicating this. If the person wants to later in life identify as their biological birth sex, a different gender, non-binary, an animal, or an inanimate object, that is their choice and limited only by never-ending and imaginative societal trends.

North Dakotans are not relativists. We know the difference between common sense and popular trend, right and wrong. Let’s not tumble down the rabbit hole on something as fundamental as a document that states a scientific fact. Playing games is fine, but playing with the truth is simply foolish.

For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action respectfully asks that you please vote House Bill 1297 out of committee with a “DO PASS” recommendation. Let’s preserve rational, common sense thinking when it concerns scientific truths.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I am now happy to stand for any questions.

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