Testimony in opposition to HB 1297
Senate Human Services Committee
Christina Sambor, North Dakota Human Rights Coalition, Human Rights Campaign, Youthworks
March 20, 2023

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Committee:

I come before you today on behalf of the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition and HRC to oppose HB 1297. This bill is unnecessary, and the proponents of the bill offer no clear cut need for this legislation. Without any simple policy need for this, the motivation appears to be a desire to limit an individual's gender identity based either on a legislator's preference that individuals not be able to choose a gender that differs from the gender assigned at birth, or because of religious convictions that cause the sponsors to believe that such an action is an affront to their religious practice. Neither of these reasons are permissible justifications for this legislation. We can all hold our individual beliefs, but the constitution puts limits on the types of laws we can pass in an attempt to impose our beliefs on someone else.

Additionally, this bill is one of many proposed this session that seek to limit the rights of transgender individuals. These laws should be heavily scrutinized as they encourage policy that targets a small and vulnerable group of people who are just trying to live their lives. Please vote do not pass on HB 1297.