



North Dakota House of Representatives

#26022



STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

Representative SuAnn Olson

District 8
17763 Highway 83
Baldwin, ND 58521-9724
solson@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Judiciary
Agriculture

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Testimony Re: HB 1474

Thank you Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Rep. SuAnn Olson. I represent District 8.

HB 1474 is a bill that will add clarity to the North Dakota Century Code. There are two major components to the bill.

Section 1 adds the following definitions to Section 1-01-49:

Father – means a parent of the male sex.

Female – means a girl, woman, or an individual whose biological productive system is developed to produce ova.

Male – means a boy, man, or an individual whose biological reproductive system is developed to fertilize the ova of a female.

Mother – means a parent of the female sex.

Sex – means the biological state of being male or female, based on the individual's nonambiguous sex organs, chromosomes, and endogenous hormone profiles at birth.

The purpose of the definitions is to remove any doubt or uncertainty as to what these terms mean wherever they might appear in the Century Code. If a Code section should mean something other than the defined term, the Code should specifically say that. While simple, these definitions are very important to be defined in the law.

Section 2 adds a new section to 23-02.1 and requires that various vital statistics be reported as either male or female, based solely on the individual's nonambiguous sex organs, chromosomes, and endogenous hormone profiles at birth.

The purpose of clarifying how data should be collected and reported is to ensure the scientific veracity of the data. Think of the inaccuracies that result in the public health arena if biological sex is ignored. For example, certain diseases are more prevalent in one sex or another. To ignore people's biological sex, makes the data less reliable. Take certain cancers, for example. Breast cancer is more prevalent in females. If more breast cancer starts showing up in male statistics, causes and conclusions aren't representative of the scientific fact. Alternatively, prostate cancer ought not show up in female reporting. Statistics are used in a variety of ways and need to be based on immutable data. Section 2 ensures that statistical reporting remains accurate and reliable.

This is a good bill. Please Vote Yes on HB 1474.