

Legislative Testimony
Senate Human Services Committee
March 21, 2023

To: Madam Chair Lee and Members of the Human Services Committee

From: My name is Dr. Ethan Dahl, and I am writing to you as a researcher and scientist who utilizes data in my research and grant writing efforts.

I support a Do Not Pass on House Bill 1474. My understanding of the bill is that, if passed, changes would be made regarding the entry of vital statistics data as well as amending section 1-01-49 of the North Dakota Century Code relating to the terms father, female, male, mother, and sex. My concern regarding these changes has to do with the use of vital statistics data from a research and health perspective. If North Dakota data is collected and categorized in a different way than national data or data from other states, it will be difficult to compare our citizens to the rest of the nation on things like health and behavioral health outcomes. These comparisons are of great importance when working to secure grant funding from federal and external funders to serve the health and wellbeing of our citizens. I also believe House Bill 1474 would cause vital statistics data to become less detailed for some citizens, which is not helpful when serving all the individuals in North Dakota.

Thank you for your time and ask you to vote Do Not Pass on House Bill 1390.

Dr. Ethan Dahl