

March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

From: Gabriela Balf, MD, MPH

**Re: In Opposition to HB 1474**

Madam Chair Lee and Esteemed Committee Members,

My name is Gabriela Balf, I am a psychiatrist in Bismarck and a Clinical Associate Professor at UND, and I speak on my own behalf.

This bill:

- Erases the transgender people from existence. “If it’s not written, it doesn’t count.”

In its functioning, a state needs a count of their citizens (census has existed for six millennia for a reason.) When vital statistics are manipulated this way, it becomes a powerful **eugenics** tool.

- This bill prevents a day like last week’s hearing for HB 1254 from happening again. If we physicians and scientists don’t have data to present you, how would you know that there are transgender people who are your constituents, who have needs and rights?
- As a scientist I am appalled that I am blocked from doing my job, which is to bring you the **data that you need** to think through when addressing the needs and rights of this population, about two thousand of your constituents.

**I urge you to be thoughtful when you vote for all the transgender bills that are coming your way, and listen to science, 21<sup>st</sup> century science.**

On behalf of our patients, I thank the Senate Human Services Committee for listening to our testimonies and we are available, any time, to bring answers to any questions you may have.



Gabriela Balf-Soran, MD, MPH

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