

Hello. My name is Shelley Farrell. I reside in Minot ND and I oppose HB 1522.

You are crushing me, spirit and soul with this bill. I am the mother of a transgender daughter and if you stood in my shoes you'd never allow this to happen.

If you haven't raised a transgender child, you can't know the horrific pain that it entails. If you don't know the stories of transgender persons than you can't understand the struggle.

It began at a young age. She loved people and wanted to be social but she was often left out because she was "different".

She was 12 years old when I found a suicide note. The bullying she endured was brutal. Her life was threatened, she was abused and called awful things repeatedly. The kids were disgusting bullies. I always offered to homeschool her but she didn't want to be in isolation.

But the middle of 8th grade she was a dishrag of a person and we had to pull her out.

I suppose boys can't handle a gentle, compassionate and talented soul. Those boys don't need protection. My child does.

In high school she went to a school where people are accepted as they actually are. Pronouns were used according to a persons gender. Transgender girls are girls. Transgender boys are boys.

What harm can come from using the appropriate pronouns for our children. That other children might learn of others who are different from them and learn compassion and acceptance.

Misgendering transgender children is the same as misgendering cisgender children. No different!

Correct pronoun usage for transgender children is lifesaving.

Transgender children and adults are not going away. They've been here since there have been humans.

Of all the different ways we are born, it's it that hard to believe that some of us are born transgender all over the world.

No child would choose to be transgender and subject themselves to the bullying from their peers and society. They are transgender because that's what they are and to not live as they are is life threatening.

To hear about your child's rights being up for grabs day after day wears parents down.

It's something no parent should have to endure. Instead of removing and erasing the rights of transgender children try standing up for them and getting to know them before sponsoring life threatening legislation.

I'm begging you to end this unnecessary attack on transgender souls. Do not jump on the bandwagon. We are not in crisis because of transgender children. They are the children in crisis and these grueling attack measures are unnecessary, inappropriate, shameful, inhumane and unlawful.

This legislation is unbearably cruel. Under no circumstances should their difficult young lives be subjected to more intolerance. And that applies to parents, educators, health care providers and anyone who works with these beautiful souls here to teach us how to love.