

March 14, 2023

**RE: Opposition to HB 1522**

Chairman and members of the Committee:

I can appreciate the desire to protect the rights of teachers and administrators. However this law seems to provide options for filing suits against the school should they do anything that accommodates or supports a transgender student and is declared to have caused some sort of harm or discomfort to any other student, regardless of if there is discrimination or harm caused at the expense of the transgender student.

As a parent that has the lived experience of raising a transgender child through a North Dakota Public School, I implore you to trust that the schools and the parents, when working together in collaboration for the best interest of safety and respect of all students will find solutions for bathroom accommodations, locker rooms, activities, and use of pronouns and preferred names.

We need to recognize that not all students will have support from home. It is crucial that they have access to adults that they can trust and lean on for support at school. Often times these educators and administrators are the role models and foundations for these students leading productive, successful lives. To put the fear of retaliation on any school official that wishes to champion and support a non-conforming student is unfair and unjustified.

DO NOT PASS on HB 1522.

Thank you,

Tara Jensen

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