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Testimony Before the Senate Human Services Committee
HB 1522
March 21, 2023

Chairwoman Lee and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, for the record, my name is Nick Archuleta, and I am president of North Dakota United. On behalf of our 11,500 members, I rise today to oppose HB 1522 and to urge a ***do not pass*** recommendation.

Madam Chair, we have two primary objections to HB 1522, The first is that should HB 1522 become law, it will represent an unnecessary legislative overreach into an area best left to locally elected school boards. I know that many school districts already have policies related to accommodations for transgender students and those which do not are fully empowered to create a policy should the need arise. I would contend, Madam Chair, that schools are best administered by those closest to the community in which they exist.

Not content with telling school boards what to do, HB 1522 extends its overreach to the courts by telling them what remedies they must award in the event that someone successfully sues the school board or the school district.

Second, Chair Lee and members of the Committee, in introducing the bill on January 24 to the House Human Services Committee, the primary sponsor of HB 1522 cited two incidents from other states before, at the 11:00:27 mark of the video, he claimed without proof that the Williston football team beat up a transgender student who had gone into the girls' rest room. He then continued his presentation of the bill by saying, "Everyone needs to be treated with dignity, civility, and respect." This bill does not do that. It does the opposite. It treats a particularly vulnerable population like pariahs and further marginalizes transgender students.

Finally, Madam Chair and Committee members, it is not a coincidence that there have been over 425 bills submitted in legislatures across the country addressing our fellow citizens who are transgender. There has been a growing and relentless effort over the past several years to ostracize transgender students in our nation's schools. The results have been



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increased rates of suicide, depression, and loneliness for these kids. North Dakota has no business being party to such actions. For these reasons, I ask for a ***do not pass*** recommendation for HB 1522.