

3rd generation ND and business owner

Hi my name is Brittany Diederich and I am here to submit testimony in opposition to this bill.

I am a 4th generation North Dakotan; my great-grandfather Osmond emigrated from Norway to Bowbells, ND and started our family legacy of impacting this community positively. My grandparents incorporated Industrial Builders, in 1953, a firm which has served the upper Midwest, particularly north Dakota, since it's founding. I drove across and under several bridges we built in partnership with the NDDOT and county governments to get here. I was a leader and owner of the firm until last year when I left to start my own business, which business December of 2022. My main work will be advising on corporate social responsibility for construction firms.

I am happily married with my wife who I was able to marry in this state thanks to the supreme Court ruling on *Obergefell versus Hodges*. I felt compelled to testify because I believe if this and the other proposed legislation passes, it will be an infringement on constitutional rights of queer north Dakotans. This state is home to a vibrant and growing queer community who will positively impact our state. Passing this bill will make this state unsafe to live in for trans youth and their families. This will exacerbate our workforce issues, addiction rates, and suicide rates; trans individuals will not stop existing because of this legislation, they will simply stop living with a modicum of safety that they currently are bestowed in this state.

I wonder often if I would've been able to get married in ND if not for *Obergefell*. I am grateful it passed and know the rights of trans youth will be constitutionally protected ultimately, I just do not want to waste the time and money unwinding this damaging legislation in court cases or future legislative sessions when we as a state have more important issues to address in order to continue growing and expanding the success of our community.