

In favor of HB 1522

Alaina Brown

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I am Alaina Brown; I am 15 and from district 35. I would like to testify in favor of HB 1522. This bill is specific to the students in the public schools. I am a homeschooler, yet this bill still very much applies to me. I have participated in sports at Simle Middle School and Legacy High School and am consistently in contact with many public-school kids my age. The current issue affects every student.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." - The Declaration of Independence.

"The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people." - Ninth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." - Preamble to the United States Constitution.

These famous documents, which have shaped our rights, our government, and our country all push the point of liberty. Liberty was one of the driving forces of the American Revolution. Liberty was fought for in the Civil War. The battle for liberty still rages today. But, we must clarify the limits of liberty. Let's do that by looking at what our founders have written and said.

"Liberty is the power to do everything that does not interfere with the rights of others: thus, the exercise of the natural rights of every individual has no limits save those assure to other members of society the enjoyment of the same rights." - Thomas Paine

Allowing persons to utilize whatever bathroom they choose is an infringement on MY freedoms. I have a right to safety. There have been numerous cases of sexual assaults and abuses, that have occurred in Bismarck, across our state and that have occurred nationally, that are bound to happen when we remove the limitations of allowing access to bathrooms in schools. I further quote the Declaration of Independence:

"That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE to alter to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to then shall seem most likely to effect THEIR SAFETY AND HAPPINESS."

It is my duty as a citizen of North Dakota and of the United States of America to protest when my freedoms and safety are in question. This Bill is upholding the standard given in the Declaration of Independence. Liberty is a God-given Right that all are entitled to. All deserve to be protected. I deeply love all people; everyone is wonderfully made in the image of God. Yet we cannot jeopardize the safety of the majority of students at the school to indulge the minority. We all have the same freedoms and the same responsibility to humanity. **A trans kids' liberty will still be protected as they will have the option of a separate bathroom to use if they are not comfortable with their assigned gender restroom. Yet, if access is open to anyone the rest of us are not given the same choice.** Our safety will be striped away without our consent. My safety will be stripped away as soon as a male walks into the womens' bathroom door. We, the majority of the students, must be considered also when deciding these issues. No one is entitled to more freedom or consideration than another person.

"But Rightful Liberty is unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others." - Thomas Jefferson

I implore you to think of ALL the kids' safety, welfare, and freedoms. I implore you to pass this bill. Thank you for your time. God bless