

To the legislators of North Dakota:

My name is Becky Zimmerman. I am a member of the Grand Forks community and the LGBTQ+ community. I am writing to encourage you to vote in opposition to HB 1249, which uses thinly veiled language to discriminate against transgender youth who wish to play sports at school. Transgender youth are already at high risk for mental health issues, with over three-quarters contemplating suicide and over half attempting it. Active discrimination only raises that risk and sends the message that their existence is unacceptable in our communities.

As a non-binary person, I already feel unwelcome in this state. Bills like this only make it seem even less open and accepting. Even though this bill specifically discriminates against youth, it makes it clear that diversity is unwelcome at any age and that unfettered bigotry is alive and well in North Dakota. Not only is it alive and well, but it is state-sanctioned.

Please, vote on the right side of history. Say NO to HB 1249.

Thank you for your time,
Becky Zimmerman, concerned citizen