



**TESTIMONY on HB 1249
from the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS—NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER
to the
ND Senate Judiciary Committee
March 27, 2023**

Chairperson Larson and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

The North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers requests a **Do Not Pass vote on HB 1249**.

NASW-ND opposes HB 1249 due to its intent to discriminate against North Dakota citizens.

The NASW Ethical Standards state that “[s]ocial workers should not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, or mental or physical ability.”

HB 1249 discriminates against transgender students by preventing them from participating in and enjoying the benefits of their chosen sports activities. The bill also serves to further isolate and ostracize transgender individuals and sends the message that they are not welcome or tolerated in North Dakota – a message that is far from the truth.

The NASW Code of Ethics asserts the inherent dignity and worth of every person and requires social workers to promote self-determination and to support an individual’s capacity and opportunity to change and address their own needs. HB 1249 denies individual self-determination and opportunity.

NASW-ND strongly opposes HB 1249 in its entirety and requests that the Senate Judiciary Committee give this bill a Do Not Pass.

Submitted by:

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