To whom it may concern,

I am writing in to express my strenuous opposition to SB 2199, this bill is not only a needless and pointless attack on the trans community but also a truly disgusting affront to the basic principles this nation was founded on. Ladies and gentlemen our founding fathers, the men who dragged this nation kicking and screaming into existence did so to defend one basic concept, that every man, every woman, every person and every child regardless of their station in life, regardless of where or when they were born can and should have the right and the privilege to speak freely at the very least and the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in a more abstract sense. This bill is an affront to and an attack on those principles, this bill would strip people of those fundamental basic human rights.

Ladies and gentlemen I would like to state something for the record, I am transgender, I would prefer to be called holly, I know that in many cases this is difficult for people and by God I understand, but this is who I am , I have known this my whole life, I have tried every avenue in existence to make it go away, there are people in my life who would rather not hear me say this but for good bad or indifferent this is who I am and I would ask that anyone show me the common courtesy of calling me by my name. I say all of that to let you know that I have a dog in this fight so to speak, but ladies and gentlemen I'm not here just for that. I'm here because I believe that this bill is an attack on the very principles that make this country the greatest on earth, the right to free expression literally and the more philosophical rights to liberty and the pursuit of happiness that this nation was founded on. As much as people like to fearmonger about it there is no law in this country that demands you refer to people by their preferred pronouns, but to my knowledge this would be the first law to penalize someone for it, for expressing their right to free speech. I ask you , are those the ideas this great nation was founded on? No!

In closing ladies and gentlemen of this committee I would ask that you remember one thing and one thing only, when you took office you took an oath before your colleagues, before your family and supporters , before your friends, before your opposition and before God himself to uphold and defend the constitution of the United States. Ladies and gentlemen that is not a document you can pick and choose which parts to support and oppose, and our constitution has made it abundantly clear that the right to free speech shall not be abridged for any reason.

I can only ask that before you cast your ballot , before you vote on this bill that you remember the oath you took, remember why you entered public service in the first place, and vote with your heart and your conscience.

I thank you very much for your time and God bless the United States of America and God Bless the state of North Dakota.