

As a medical doctor, I understand the literature on human gender and sex and I know it to be true that some humans are transgender. That is, they are not intrinsically the gender that they were thought to be when they were newborn infants. I've worked with many transgender people as my patients and outside my work and I know that they know their own gender better than I or anyone else can.

I also know that research shows when doctors, family, friends, and other members of society do not respect someone's gender identity, there is a strikingly increased risk that the transgender person will commit suicide.

I am against this bill because it is disrespectful and dangerous for transgender people. I know that North Dakotans are kind-hearted and wouldn't want to harm transgender people, especially when transgender people are doing nothing to harm others. This bill puts transgender people at risk and benefits no one.

Please consider my professional experience when I tell you passing this bill is dangerous for my patients, for the transgender residents of North Dakota. There is nothing to gain from passing this piece of legislature.