January 17th, 2023

Taylor Smart LAPC | Clinical Mental Health Counselor

Dear Honorable Members of the North Dakota Legistlature,

This letter is to inform you that your plans to limit the definition of gender in North Dakota to biological sex will be inherently harmful and cause undue stress to thousands of North Dakotans. I work with North Dakota citizens every day as a mental health counselor that would be significantly impacted by this decision, and on behalf of my clients and fellow mental health providers, I want to urge you to reconsider this piece of legislation.

I am familiar with the professional, peer-reviewed literature concerning gender identity, and know that it would harm people who are already marginalized and treated poorly in our state. Not only would it harm individuals, but also organizations that will have to adopt rules and enforce fines that are against their ethics and philosophies.

Again, I urge you to consider the harm and damage that this will cause to North Dakota citizens, businesses and other organizations.

Sincerely,

Taylor Smart LAPC
Clinical Mental Health Counselor