To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a healthcare provider licensed and practicing in North Dakota. I am in strong opposition to Senate Bill 2199, relating to gender usage in the North Dakota Century Code. I have seen first hand the impact of misgendering trans and non-binary individuals by using the pronouns that correlate with their "sex" assigned at birth. If this law were to pass I would be forced to mis-gender my trans or non-binary patients. This may lead them to avoid getting needed medical care, creating risks to their own wellbeing as well as public health. The fear of being fined could well lead to medical providers or other public servants leaving the state, to the detriment of all North Dakota citizens.

In addition I would like to point out, as many others have already, that forcing someone to use the pronouns that associate with their "deoxyribonucleic acid" is extremely impractical and illogical. While we generally think of "females" as having two X chromosomes and "males" as having an X and a Y, there are many individuals who have other combinations. Some may have XXY. Some may have just one X. Some have some cells in their body that contain XX and others that contain XY. There are individuals who have the XY chromosome but a condition known as "androgen insensitivity" that causes them to develop physically "female" genitalia and features. Others people with any combination of DNA can be born with both ovarian and testicular tissue, or neither. According to the Cleveland Clinic approximately 1% of people fit one of these categories – meaning over 7,700 North Dakotan residents.

Lastly, this bill is in complete violation of the very basic ideals of freedom of speech and expression. All individuals have the right to determine how they want to be identified – anyone who has ever been given a name at birth that they didn't care for and chosen instead to go by a nickname understands this. At the end of the day pronouns are words – parts of speech, protected by the US constitution. There are languages on Earth that don't have separate pronouns for male and female – Armenian, Tagalog, Persian or Farsi, Turkish, Hungarian, Estonian, Finnish, spoken Mandarin, written Cantonese, Swahili and Yoruba for example. Many parts of our society have already learned that gendered language isn't ideal – for example we generally use the term "Police Officer" now instead of "Police Man" and "Police Woman," or "Flight Attendant" instead of "Steward" and "Stewardess."

I urge you all to vote "Do Not Pass" on this hateful, backwards, antiquated, illogical, idiotic, un-constitutional and un-enforceable piece of legislation. If passed this bill benefits absolutely no one and will harm many.

Regards,

Tanya Baity

Certified Nurse Midwife