Representative Diane Larson, Chairman
Representative Michael Dwyer, Vice Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
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I am writing against bill 2199

I strongly advise you to not go through with passing bill 2199.

When I was a child I was taught that if I didn't have anything nice to say, then to not say anything at all. I was taught that sometimes, people are going to say and do things that I don't agree with, but it was my job to tolerate and respect everyone. Bill 2199 is an extremely harmful bill that will put the lives of transgender youth at risk. Medical procedures and hormone replacement therapies to transgender youth and to the transgender community is profoundly important. Studies show that transgender people who started hormone replacement therapies in adolescence had fewer thoughts of suicide and were less likely to suffer from major mental disorders. Another study showed that medically transitioning increased the individual's quality of life and allowed them to finally feel free and happy with their body and mind. My question is why is the state of North Dakota so focused on taking away the rights of queer or transgender citizens?

Is it because of a religious belief? Because the Bible states that Matthew chapter 7 verse 12, "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." or in other words, treat others how you wish to be treated. In Philipians chapter 2 verse 3, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." Respecting the dignity and worth of others is much more important than fueling the fire of our own egos. In order to love and respect others we need to think less about how we think of things and focus more on what others are thinking and feeling as that might help us see a different perspective. And also the establishment clause in the United States constitution separates the church from the state.

There can't be a scientific reason behind this bill. Discoveries within the brain of transgender people are being made all over the world. At a hospital in California it was discovered that the neurological wiring inside the brain of transgender identifying people corresponds more with the individual's gender opposed to the sex they were assigned at birth. Meaning, transgender people's brains are wired to think, act, and feel as the gender they correspond with. But, yes there are still factors that go with being transgender that science, doctors, or even anybody understands yet, but that can be said about everything in the world. How do the cells that makeup my heart know to be heart cells, or how did human life evolve from a bacteria to what it is now?

But let's be honest with ourselves. No matter how much scientifically proven evidence I show you or statistics of suicide amongst transgender people unable to medically transition or the evidence that is shown in the bible or even if I stand here and beg you to just open your eyes and look at the damage you will be doing if you do end up passing this bill, you won't listen. I don't think I will ever understand why

the government in this state is so against people who are just trying to live their best life. I can ask you all why you are fighting so hard to pass this bill but I won't get a straight answer because all of your reasons will include the words "I think," or "I believe," or simply "I". You will base your arguments on opinions and beliefs, and not off of facts or evidence.

When you all were sworn into this office you took an oath, an oath bounding you by law to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. But passing this bill means that you are putting a target on all Transgender youth, risking their lives, and their rights as it was written in the constitution. The Ninth amendment to be exact, the amendment that states not to deny the rights of others retained by the people. So if this bill is to be passed, you are not only breaking your oath, but you are becoming what you swore to protect the constitution against; an enemy.