I, Matthew Mullins, as a North Dakota resident hereby state my opposition towards Senate Bill 2199 (SB 2199). My reasoning is as follows:

Of the bills pushing anti-transgender legislation there are few that are so openly targetting towards an already struggling group as this one, and indeed fewer still that are as blatantly written to accomplish no other goal than making life more difficult for even those affected in the most tangential of ways.

Not only is this bill incapable of bettering the lives of anyone in North Dakota, the fine it intends to levy upon those who are found to be in violation of its mandates can and will prove detrimental to businesses and institutions across North Dakota.

The new systems of identity verification necessary in venues which do not innately require a birth certificate or that have access to methods of DNA testing (of which several were listed in the examples of organizations which would be held accountable by this bill) would be a staggering hurdle to overcome alone. Something which must be considered alongside the amount of clerical work required to re-enter the fallacious information the bill demands be updated.

A task I would envy absolutely no one considering the size of North Dakota's transgender population.

A survey conducted by the Williams Institute of UCLA projected 12,000 LGBTQ+ jobholders in North Dakota as of 2020 (https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-ND-Protections-Update-Apr-2020.pdf). The same study notes that there are approximately 20,000 LGBTQ+ individuals aged 13 and above. A number which only continues to rise as time passes and modern society gives people the chance to come to understand themselves in a fuller capacity without the restrictions enforced by systems built upon antiquated beliefs which have no place in the present day.

Bills like this will do absolutely nothing to stop this trend, instead only making life worse for those who already struggle to find a sense of stability in a world facing incredibly unstable times.

The law should never be used to uphold and enforce discrimination, and this bill serves to accomplish nothing other than that. I cannot state enough the fact of this bill being capable of imparting -no- positive effects for any person or for society as a whole in the short or long term.

If this bill, or any other like it is passed then the message it sends to the residents of North Dakota, the people of the United States, and the collective world at large is that those who govern it are unwilling to move forward alongside the rest of modern society. It shows that instead an active choice is being made to continue to propagate one of the many brands of hatred that has persisted as a plague on the cultural zeitgeist for generations.

The people of North Dakota neither deserve nor desire to live in a system which venerates and operates upon ideas of discrimination.

What we deserve more than anything is a governing body composed of individuals whose greatest intention is to determine the problems we are facing as a society and to address and solve said problems to the best of their capability.

This bill is a problem, I ask that you please prove you can solve it by putting forth your most fervant opposition to any further progress it could make.