As a North Dakota resident I urge you to oppose SB 2199.

This is a bill that criminalizes the transgender population of North Dakota and removes the possibility of transgender folks from the state population. Pretending transgender individuals don't exist is going to create significant problems. LGBT people already face increased rates of discrimination, threats and real violence, and social ostracization. Bills such as this empower those to wish to harm others and increase the rates of depression, self-harm and suicide for the LGBT population, which are already disproportionately high.

This bill is not representative of how North Dakota residents think or feel towards their friends and neighbors. There is no problem with having transgender individuals in our communities.

Additionally, this bill makes no mention of how it will be enforced or what happens to out of state agencies that receive North Dakota funds. It's a poorly written and an unnecessary bill by a group of individuals who preach small government while overreaching into people's personal private lives.

I strongly urge you to oppose SB 2199.