

As a mother of a transgender teen in North Dakota Public Schools, I strongly oppose this bill. To date, my son has had a positive experience with his public school using his preferred pronouns, and it has improved his mental health in the school environment. Prior to his transition, he struggled with mental health and frequently missed school. With the school's support of his transition, his mental health has improved greatly. He rarely misses school, is excelling academically with a 4.03, and is engaged in co-curriculars. To implement this bill and require the school to misgender him, would cause significant distress, increase symptoms of gender dysphoria, and make school an unsafe place for him to be. His anxiety and depression would deteriorate and all of the progress made over the past few years lost. In addition, the bill defines gender as someone's assigned sex at birth which is contrary to the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychological Association. Please do not support this legislation. It is not inclusive and discriminates against people who do not identify as the sex assigned to them at birth.