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Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am the Medical Director at Canopy Medical Clinic, located in Fargo. Our clinic specializes in the medical care of LGBTQ+ individuals. I am writing in opposition to SB 2199, and I ask that you give this bill a **Do Not Pass** recommendation. SB 2199 seems to target one of our most vulnerable populations, which are our neighbors and community members who identify as transgender and gender diverse.

As a medical clinic that receives state grants and takes state insurance, the wording of this bill would not only negatively affect the patients we see, but the bill isn't logical in any meaningful sense. The negative impacts of this bill would not only affect our clinic, but every medical facility within North Dakota.

Medically, referring to an individual by the pronouns associated with their DNA does not make logical sense, as gender, DNA, sex, and orientation are all different concepts. If someone comes to see me for depression, anxiety, high blood pressure, ect, I have no way of knowing what their DNA results are. More bluntly, there is no way to determine an individual's gender based on their DNA. As a medical provider, to comply with this bill, we would need DNA results for every single patient we saw in our clinic. Furthermore, we would then need a medical definition of how DNA relates to gender identity, and no such definition exists.

We know from a plethora of research that using an individual's correct pronouns is a means of affirmation towards their identity and sense of self-worth. Years of research has shown us that by using the pronouns that align with an individual's gender identity, we can reduce suicide attempts dramatically. I do not believe that North Dakota legislators would pass a bill that may increase suicide attempts to our neighbors and community members

Lastly, I have fiscal concerns regarding this bill. Is the state of ND going to cover the cost of genetic testing for all medical patients in the state of North Dakota? Will the government agency that is chosen to oversee the implementation of this bill start auditing the medical records of every North Dakota medical facility that receives any form of State funding? Who will financially pay for these audits?

For the reasons listed above, I again urge a **Do No Pass** recommendation for this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

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