

Dear Legislators of North Dakota,

To put it plainly, I oppose SB 2199. It is an attack on personal freedoms, puts my loved ones at risk, and sets a horrible precedent for other states.

Transgender and Non-binary individuals would not only explicitly be at risk because of harmful consequences should this law pass, but they would also suffer personally. When we as individuals are given the freedom to personal expression (regardless of gender identity), we are healthier people both physically and emotionally. When harmful laws like this are proposed, it gives space for more severe and strict laws to pass, but it makes a statement to residents of North Dakota and other states that our own elected officials find something inherently wrong with them as individuals. When people grow up in a place where they are hated for simply existing, it is detrimental to them as individuals. Bullying, suicide, and severe mental health conditions are exponentially higher amongst the LGBTQ+ community than their cisgender and heterosexual counterparts. This is largely due to harmful and public legislation that takes the stand that people are more or less valuable based on their gender or sexual identity.

I urge members of the North Dakota legislature to strike down this bill before it can move any further and instead work to pass protections for transgender and non-binary residents.