1/18/2023

Dear Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My testimony is in opposition to Senate Bill 2199. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass. The reason for this is that this bill impacts the people I care about and myself, because it is pretty much erasing our existence. As someone who is a part of transgender and non-confirming community, I makes me feel not welcome in a state that I was born and raised in. I used to be proud to say I am from Grand Forks, North Dakota, but not anymore due to the fact I feel like my life and safety is in danger.

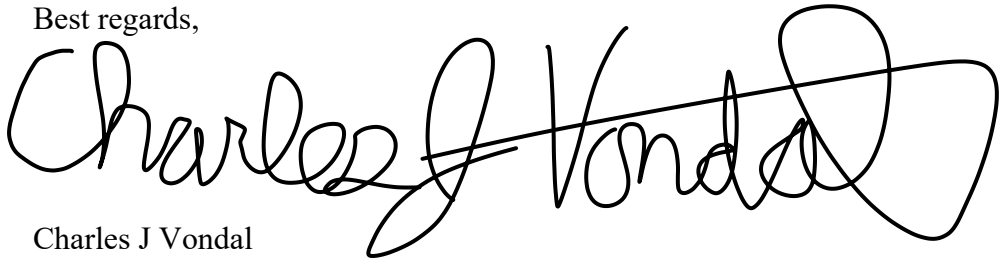
Furthermore, it is showing the youth that are still trying figure out who they are that they shouldn't exist. That being who they are and want to be will cause them to be fined. I fear that this will put a lot more stress and do more damage on the population that it is trying to protect. I only imagine how stressful and worried they are if this bill is causing unease.

Additionally, there is a bit of an issue with the wording in this bill. According to lines 7-9 part of this bill, it quotes, "Words used to reference an individual's sex, gender, gender identity, or gender expression, mean the individual's determined sex at birth, male or female". The issue that can be brought up is the fact there is more that it excludes those who are intersex. Not only that, in lines 13 and 14, it states, "If sex, gender, gender identity, or gender expression is contested, determination is established by the individual's deoxyribonucleic acid". Meaning medical tests will have to be done. Who is going to pay for those? Those who brought forth this bill did not include that in there. In sentences 19 and 20, "Any person that violates this section must be assessed a fee of one thousand five hundred dollars", it brings up the question how will be assessed. Will the person in question be charged every time their gender or sex is questioned? Or will once a month? There seems to be inconsistent with the penalty in mind.

Sadly, not only does this bill seem inconsistent, but it conflicts with my ethical code of conduct of someone who is studying social work at the University of North Dakota. Personally, I follow the National Association of Social Workers Code of Ethics since I hope one day to be a social worker here in North Dakota soon. I feel this bill goes against one of the main core values of the Code of ethic. That is core value is the dignity and worth of the person. As I said before if this bill passes, it is stating in North Dakota Century Code that anyone who is part of the transgender and non-confirming community does not exist and will have to pay $1,500 dollars. It's inhumane to treat people like this.

Currently, that is all I have to say. I hope you considered being in opposition to Senate Bill 2199, and the damage it might cause for the future. Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state.

Best regards,



Charles J Vondal

CJV