

January 23, 2025

Chairman Ruby and members of Human Services,

I am writing to ask that you vote Nay and do not support HB 1144.

I understand that the idea of transgender people can be complicated and hard for some of us to understand. I myself did not grow up knowing this word or understanding what it meant to be transgender. However, I have educated myself and learned the science behind genes and chromosomes and hormones and gender. I've learned that thousands of people are born with a variety of chromosomes that may be different from the sexuality that is implied by their genitalia.

However, it's not the science that implores me to write this testimony. It is compassion for my fellow North Dakotans. I am fortunate to not have had to grapple with the confusion of being told I am one thing but feeling like something else and I am grateful for that. However, I can understand the terror that a transgender person must feel when they have to enter a locker room or bathroom meant for the gender they do not identify as. Can you imagine being told you must use the opposite restroom? I recognize the lack of acceptance and the feeling of being unwanted that these humans must go through when people do not accept them for who they are. How would you feel if I dismissed your request to call you by your name? HB 1144 does exactly this and puts North Dakotans at risk to be harmed by others or by themselves. If passed, it codifies the alienation of our fellow humans and puts our youth at risk. If you truly want to protect North Dakota's youth you will not pass HB 114.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Anderson

Burlington, ND

PS: I'd highly recommend the book *Becoming Nicole* by Amy Ellis Nutt if you would like to hear the story of a family similar to yours and mine and their struggle with understanding this issue.