

Dear Committee,

I am a North Dakotan born and bred. Most of my 30 years on this earth have been in Fargo. A refrain I have heard is that young people need to stay in the state, but bills like this one make people regardless of their age want to leave the state. I used to be a person who would defend the state, because there are so many kind people here worthy of defending because so many people followed used to be the bedrock of North Dakotan way of life: being kind to your neighbor, no matter who they are.

But this legislative session and this bill in particular is the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back, and I will no longer defend this state and actively look to leave because it seems many legislators have abandoned the notion of being kind.

You are not being kind to your neighbor by telling children they are not welcome because of who they are. You are not protecting anyone with a bill that tries to ban people from stepping into a bathroom.

There's a saying that "gender affirming care is lifesaving care" and the opposite is true as well. If you want young people to stay in the state, make them want to stay alive in the state by being a decent person and do not pass HB1144.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Fricker