

January 26, 2025

Chairman Ruby and members of Human Services,

I am writing to request that you consider a vote of NO on HB 1144. I realize that if you do not have first-hand experience with a transgender human in your life, the unknown can be hard to understand. I am a mother of a transgender young adult. It was only through opening my mind, educating myself about the science-based research on the how the brain and body can sometimes become misaligned in utero, and working thoroughly with trusted medical teams, school officials, our faith community, family and friends willing to choose respect and inclusion that my child has been able to not only survive, but thrive in life. When there is a community that is accepting, inclusive, and respectful it can literally save lives. No one that I know personally or casually that is transgender is out to make others feel uncomfortable. They simply want to feel safe and respected just as anyone else does in life. HB 1144 puts the North Dakotan transgender population at risk to be harmed by others or by themselves if we allowed alienation, prejudice, or stripping away of rights to be considered acceptable against this already marginalized group of people. If passed, it codifies the alienation of our fellow humans and puts our youth at risk. Protect North Dakota's youth, Do not pass HB 1114.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Jensen

District 44 , Fargo, ND