

Dear Members of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1144, which relates to transgender student accommodations and restroom use in public schools. This bill represents a harmful and unnecessary intrusion into the lives of transgender students, undermining their dignity, safety, and well-being.

HB1144 seeks to restrict restroom access based on a student's assigned sex at birth, disregarding the real and pressing needs of transgender youth. Forcing students to use restrooms that do not align with their gender identity subjects them to increased risks of bullying, harassment, and emotional distress. Public schools should be environments that foster safety, inclusion, and support for all students—not spaces where certain groups are singled out for discrimination.

It is important to note that evidence demonstrates that accommodating transgender students does not pose a risk to others. Inclusive policies improve the mental health and well-being of transgender youth while encouraging understanding and respect among all students. This legislation not only alienates vulnerable young people but also imposes punitive measures on schools and administrators, diverting valuable resources from education to enforce discriminatory practices.

Declaring an "emergency" to pass HB1144 only exacerbates its harmful effects, prioritizing fear and misinformation over compassion and evidence-based policymaking. Instead of creating division, I urge you to reject this bill and focus on measures that promote equality, understanding, and safety for all students in North Dakota.

Respectfully,
Charles J Vondal

Grand Forks, ND