

House Human Services Committee
Jan 27th, 2025 HB 1144
Testimony in Opposition

Dear Chair Ruby and the members of the House Human Services Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HB 1144.

I’m the state expert on LGBTQ+ youth outcomes and I oppose this bill on a few grounds.

1. **It Doesn’t Do Anything** - Trans kids already can’t go to the bathroom and there are no unisex multi stall bathrooms in schools. This is similar to the kitty litter scare last year.
2. **Trans Kids Need More Help, Not Less** - One in Five trans youth were not drinking water in a seven day period, this was more than ten times higher than for LGB or straight youth. Trans kids are terrified of bathrooms and the bullying therein no matter where they go. This bill micromanages a non-problem that just leads further away from trans kids being safe going to school.
3. **Denying Implicit Instruction of Pronouns Reduces Protective Factors** - Research shows using the pronoun a child prefers reduces their suicidality. This information could be considered implicit instruction to use the chosen pronouns for trans children. This correlation is well researched and included with suicide prevention material. This association can be found in accredited suicide pervention training that cannot be changed or modified without losing its accreditation.

I recommend looking over the [State of the State Report](#) and asking ourselves if the direction of this bill or others like it lead to a better North Dakota. While something could be said about balancing the rights of students, parents, or educational staff around LGBTQ+ youth, what have we as a state done to make these kids in any capacity feel safer? Feel more welcomed? Feel less scared?

Every school, county, and district in our state will be different. I urge a return to local control on all school issues, especially ones that micromanage how people feel about culture. Please give this a Do Not Pass.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler