

**Subject:** Opposition to HB 1144 – Protect All Students and Foster an Inclusive Environment

I am writing to express my **strong opposition to HB 1144 and to urge you to vote DO NOT PASS**. As a faculty advisor for my school's LGBT+ Club, I have had the privilege of supporting students who, in many cases, have had to navigate difficult, personal journeys related to their identity. The club has served as a vital space for these students to feel safe, accepted, and valued.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my work with these students is seeing the positive change in their self-esteem, confidence, and sense of belonging as they engage in an environment where they are not only accepted but celebrated. However, HB 1144 presents a direct threat to these efforts and the inclusivity we strive to build within our schools.

This bill sends a message that certain students, especially those who identify as LGBTQ+, are somehow less deserving of the same protections and respect as others. Students who already face challenges with acceptance and understanding are often the most vulnerable, and this bill only serves to make them feel targeted and isolated. All students, regardless of their identity, deserve to feel welcomed, safe, and supported in their educational environment.

When laws or policies singling out specific groups of students are introduced, they create an atmosphere of division and fear. This is not the kind of environment that fosters growth, learning, and the positive development of all students. We must strive for an education system that supports every student, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or background.

As a faculty advisor, I've seen how critical it is to provide a space where every student can freely express themselves and seek guidance without fear of discrimination or rejection. If HB 1144 passes, it would not only undermine this important work but also send a harmful message to students who are already struggling with acceptance and self-identity.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1144 and to stand up for the fundamental right of every student to feel safe, supported, and valued in their school community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Erin Price, Bismarck