

Testimony in opposition to HB 1181

I am opposed to the enshrining overly simplistic definitions of gender in ND law.

As a PhD biologist who regularly teaches developmental biology at Minot State University, I am dismayed that some legislators feel the need to establish definitions of gender that do not comport with biological reality.

Reality is, that the development of sexual characteristics is a complex process and that chromosomal sex does not always match external and/or internal sexual characteristics. Sex assignment at birth is sometimes difficult or wrong. There are individuals with XX sex chromosomes that have male characteristics. There are XY individuals that have female characteristics. There are individuals with more or fewer sex chromosomes than the usual two. Checking their DNA will do nothing to help sort them into an artificially binary system (male – female).

I also can not understand what problem this bill is addressing. I further can not see how this should be implemented. Who is paying for these DNA tests? Taxpayers?

This bill is a solution looking for a problem.

Sincerely

Alex Deufel District 40