

Chairman Ruby and members of the Human Services Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1181 and urge a vote of Do Not Pass. This bill, as outlined, is fundamentally flawed and raises serious ethical and human rights concerns.

To begin, this proposed definition of gender is not only scientifically flawed but also deeply harmful, as it seeks to erase the identities of transgender and non-binary individuals by reducing them solely to their sex assigned at birth. By enacting this definition, the bill enforces a rigid, outdated view of gender that invalidates the identities of those who are transgender, gender non-conforming, or who fall outside traditional gender norms. It creates an environment where diversity in gender expression is forced into hiding and actively suppressed by authorities.

Next, the language of the bill inherently enforces gender discrimination and disregards the identities and lived experiences of transgender and non-binary individuals. By mandating that words referring to an individual must align with their sex at birth, the policy invalidates the personal identities and requests of those whose gender identity differs from their assigned sex at birth. This not only disrespects their autonomy but also, and most importantly, subjects them to guaranteed ridicule and discrimination, thus legalizing bullying and harassment.

And finally, the bill's stipulation that gender disputes be resolved through DNA testing is both invasive and scientifically misguided. Gender identity is a deeply personal and complex aspect of an individual's identity that cannot be strictly defined by genetic markers. Requiring DNA testing to validate someone's gender identity is an invasion of privacy and undermines the dignity of the individual.

In the face of such discriminatory policies, it is crucial to stand firm in our resistance and I, for one, cannot imagine ever complying with a law that dictates I harm another human being "just because". We must collectively oppose any measures that seek to undermine the rights and identities of transgender and non-binary individuals. Our commitment to equality and justice demands that we reject policies that foster exclusion and discrimination.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider this bill in light of its discriminatory nature and the harm it would cause to vulnerable communities. Instead, I advocate for policies that promote dignity, respect, and the recognition of all individuals' rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Christina Feldmann

Beach, ND

