

When it comes to human rights, the freedom of speech and expression have been a strong foundation in American history and belief. Without that right, our belief in our country collapses. These freedoms of speech and expression do not only reflect on opinions but as well as diversity of people. There is diversity within diversity. Not every person is the same as the last, and not everyone shares defined characteristics. When it comes to people expressing themselves there are thousands upon thousands of ways to do so. Gender and its association being one of them. There is evidence that follows along the path of human history that transgender and nonbinary individuals have existed for a majority of the time humans have existed. However, this expression of self is put into a minority. Those who perceive themselves as other than their birth gender will not stop perceiving themselves that way. They will always have feelings of displacement in their own bodies. When you take away their right to express their right to using their preferred pronouns, you are harming the individual's sense of self. Adding to this, you are not only putting the individual's mental health at stake but also their physical safety. There are many people who are prejudiced towards the LGBTQ+. When you take away this right for children and young adults in schools and universities you put them at risk of being hate-crimed and harmed by those around them. The places that should be considered safe are no longer safe for this minority and causes an increase in harmful speech and acts to those this bill will affect. Children and adults alike, across the united states have committed suicide or have been brutally murdered over having these rights stripped from them. Families have had to mourn those who should still be with us today because of those prejudices against them. Enacting this bill in North Dakota would continue this bloody and dangerous cycle.