

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION**  
**TO HB 1430**

Date of Hearing: January 21, 2025

Denise Ann Dykeman 1840 12<sup>th</sup> St SW, Minot, ND 58701

Committee chair and members of the committee, my name is Denise Ann Dykeman. I am a resident of Minot, North Dakota. I write in opposition of House Bill 1430. I oppose this bill because it allows social workers to engage in conversion therapy for LGBTQ+ individuals.

Conversion therapy is any emotional or physical therapy used to “cure” or “repair” a person’s attraction to the same sex, or their gender identity and expression. Providers claim these therapies can make someone heterosexual or “straight.” But there’s no evidence to support this.

I have several friends who have been subjected to some form of conversion therapy. It doesn’t work and made my friends feel like there was something wrong with them. That made them feel sad and rejected. No one wants to feel that way.

Medical and mental health experts have rejected conversion therapy practices as dangerous and discriminatory for decades. It not only doesn’t work, but could also lead to:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Drug use
- Homelessness
- Suicide

It isn’t good for anyone.

Please oppose HB 1430.

Respectfully,

Denise A. Dykeman  
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