

Sylvia Bull

Regarding House Bill No. 1430

21 January 2025

To the members of the House Health and Human Services Committee Committee,

I urge a strong NO vote on House Bill 1430 related to the regulation of social workers. This bill changes the ND Century Code to state that offering conversion therapy is not an ethical violation for social workers, and furthermore that minors ONLY need parental permission to undergo this “therapy” and need not consent themselves.

Stating that this type of therapy is not an ethical violation, even in the law, does not make that a reality. It is well-documented, including by the Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics, that conversion therapy causes real harm to LGBTQ+ people, at a cost to the American people and economy of over 9 billion dollars a year.<sup>1</sup> These harms are real in the lives of LGBT people in North Dakota. Our ethical responsibility is to work to create safety for all people of North Dakota, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. This bill actively works against that.

Again, I urge you to vote NO on House Bill 1430. Please direct your efforts to legislation that serves and benefits the lives of all North Dakotans, irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Thank you,  
Rev. Sylvia Bull  
Bismarck - District 32

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<sup>1</sup> “Humanistic and Economic Burden of Conversion Therapy Among LGBTQ Youths in the United States,” JAMA Pediatrics, March 7, 2022, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2789415>.