

March 19, 2025

Chairman and Committee Members,

I respectfully request that you consider a vote of NO on HB 1144. If you do not have first-hand experience with a transgender human in your life, the unknown can be hard to understand. I am a mother of a transgender young adult. It was only through working closely with trusted medical teams and school officials that my child was able to not only survive but thrive in life. During the time my child was in high school we navigated solutions and accommodations that kept our child safe, confident, and affirmed while trying hard to ensure other students felt the same respect. It was stressful to constantly worry about the safety of my child, but I found that the open communication led to improved acceptance and understanding, creating a better environment all around. When there is a community that seeks understanding and inclusion, it can literally save lives and uplift, rather than divide.

No one that I know personally that is transgender is out to make others feel uncomfortable or infringe on others privacy or rights. They simply want to feel safe, respected, and go about their business just as anyone else does in life. HB 1144 puts the North Dakotan transgender population at risk to be harmed by others. Blatant disregard for their identity which matches their brain, allowing alienation, prejudice, or stripping away of basic freedoms against this already highly marginalized group of people codify the alienation of our fellow humans and puts lives at risk. Do not pass HB 1144.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Jensen

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