

**Testimony in Opposition to 1144
Presented to the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
3.20.25**

Dear Members of the Committee,

I come before you today to express my vehement opposition to this deeply concerning piece of legislation that aims to amend Section 15.1-06-21 of the North Dakota Century Code. This bill is a direct assault on the rights, dignity, and well-being of transgender students in our public schools and sets a dangerous precedent of exclusion, discrimination, and governmental overreach into matters of personal identity and safety.

Practical Implications and Unintended Consequences

1. **Logistical Challenges:** The prohibition of multi-stall or multi-room gender-neutral restrooms creates impractical and costly demands for schools. This requirement, combined with the limitations imposed on restroom placement, ignores the physical realities of existing facilities and budgets, potentially leaving schools non-compliant with state plumbing board ratios.
2. **Legal Vulnerability:** By mandating discriminatory practices, this bill invites lawsuits from families, advocacy organizations, and civil rights groups, further straining state resources.
3. **Mental Health Crisis:** Policies that alienate and stigmatize transgender students are linked to increased rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide. Schools should prioritize the mental health and safety of all students, not enforce regulations that compound harm.

Protecting the Dignity and Rights of All Students

At its core, this bill undermines the fundamental rights of transgender students to exist authentically in public spaces. It not only denies them the ability to use facilities that align with their gender identity but also imposes harmful restrictions that stigmatize and isolate them. This is not about "safety" or "order"—it is about creating barriers to equal participation in education, fostering environments where transgender students are subjected to unnecessary scrutiny, and exacerbating bullying and mental health challenges.

Conclusion

I urge you to reject this harmful bill. It fails to protect students, infringes upon local governance, and perpetuates stigma against transgender individuals. We should be passing laws that uplift and support all students—not ones that single out and marginalize a vulnerable group. Let us ensure that North Dakota remains a place where every child has the opportunity to learn, thrive, and feel safe in their schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Boub

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