

Dear Lawmakers and Superintendents:

I live in your district and wanted to connect you to each other because of HB 1144. This bill has been amended to disallow any sort of gender-neutral restroom area that has a communal sink. Most modern school bathroom designs include this sort of layout because it improves safety overall, reduces anxiety and bullying experienced by students, and is easier to monitor for bad behavior.

These bathrooms help all students, but truthfully, removing them will especially hurt transgender students. Our state data, with an analysis of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, found our LGBTQ+ students experience significant bullying, hardship, and suicidality from schools and that they don't feel safe. Many of these kids even bring weapons to school for self-defense and middle school trans students report not drinking water so they can avoid going to the bathroom.

While we may all have differences of opinion on the best way to run any school, I don't think anyone wants to make school less safe for any student, and I believe our House was under-informed on the real impact of this bill. Please, lawmakers, connect with our local superintendents to have a conversation if this bill is needed or practical.

I am writing to ask you to please oppose any bills that discriminate against transgender people. This includes efforts to retract access to affirming healthcare, sports, and public facilities that match their gender identity. Discriminatory efforts like these are deeply harmful to already at-risk trans children.

I will be watching closely to see what you do to protect trans rights, and I will cast future votes accordingly. Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Sydney Glende
1330 23rd st S
Fargo ND 58103