

## **HB 1144 - vote Do NOT Pass**

Dear Senator Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Connie Hoffman of Fargo, and a lifelong resident of North Dakota. I write in opposition to HB 1144, relating to transgender student accommodations and restroom use in public schools; and to provide a penalty.

My concern with this bill is that it deprives all students of safe bathroom accommodations when HB 1144 specifically outlaws gender neutral private single stall bathrooms with full sided walls and doors, which provide the most privacy for any student. I have spoken with many mothers who share that their children in newer schools with this design feel safer using gender neutral single stall private bathrooms, with corresponding shared sinks outside of the private bathroom. This has greatly reduced teasing or peeking or bullying going on because these bathrooms are private and aligned in a very visible manner to teachers and those supervising students.

What capacity does the Attorney General's Office have to investigate potential violations of this bill? How would a determination be made as to who is at fault for a reported violation in a school with a variety of individuals responsible for students throughout the day, such as paraprofessionals, teachers, school nurses, principals, superintendents, school board members?

This bill attempts to make the issue about transgender students and which bathroom they can use. Instead use common sense so kids can use the bathroom during the school day and get back to class. Allow local school districts to have local control as to how to best handle situations in their school. The heartless approach of this bill harms all students.

Vote Do NOT Pass on HB 1144.

Thank you.

Connie Hoffman  
Fargo, ND