

March 24th, 2025

Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education committee,

I am writing IN OPPOSITION to HB 1144.

I believe this is a discriminatory bill that will only further stigmatize transgender students in North Dakota.

Transgender students need access to appropriate accommodations during the school day. Passing this bill would force our kids to use bathrooms that endanger their safety.

Gender neutral bathrooms reduce the risk our students face for violence, harassment, and stalking.

Let's work to create environments where all our students feel safe. Inclusive policies and environments improve overall academic achievements vs. leading to higher rates of discipline issues, higher levels of depression/self-esteem, and lower educational aspirations.

Please VOTE NO on HB1144.

Respectfully,
Mariah Ralston