

Dear Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 1144, which seeks to clarify policies regarding restroom use and gender identity accommodations in North Dakota's public schools. This bill is essential to ensuring that schools maintain clear, fair, and transparent policies that respect biological distinctions while upholding parental rights.

House Bill 1144 provides necessary guidelines that:

- Ensure school restrooms and locker rooms remain designated based on biological sex, maintaining privacy and safety for all students.
- Require schools to work with parents or legal guardians to develop individual plans for transgender students, ensuring parental involvement in sensitive issues.
- Prohibit the withholding of information about a student's transgender status from their parents, reinforcing the importance of family involvement in a child's development.

This bill is not about discrimination but about creating policies that respect both students' rights and parental authority. By ensuring restrooms and locker rooms remain single-sex, HB 1144 upholds the privacy and security of students, particularly young girls. At the same time, it provides accommodations for transgender students in a way that includes parents in decision-making. This policy doesn't force bathrooms to be labeled, but I think that would make a great addition to this bill, labeling reinforces ideas at a young age of the distinction between two genders.

As a parent of three children, I believe this legislation strikes a fair balance between addressing the concerns of all students while maintaining order and clarity within schools. I urge you and the committee to vote in favor of HB 1144 and support its passage into law.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to serving North Dakota's students and families. I appreciate your consideration of this important issue and your attention.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Sogge