



Dear Chair of Senate Education and Committee Members,

I urge a 'Do Not Pass' on HB 1144. This bill attempts to fix a nonexistent problem and only creates new problems for our school districts. The bill imposes limitations on architectural designs, privacy, and creates new expenses for our school districts that need to redesign and rebuild parts of their schools. All of this additional burden being placed on our school systems at the same time as the Dept. of Education is being cut, and the legislators of North Dakota debate cutting property taxes, further reducing the avenues for covering expenses in our districts.

This bill introduces these new challenges and limitations on our districts are only the means to one end: To further oppress and stigmatize the LGBTQ+ community. 'Bathroom Bills' that have been passed in other states have resulted in harm to students and the economy of those states.

The contemporary architectural style that has individual stalls is beneficial for all of our students, whether or not they are trans. In particular I would like to point out the restrictive nature of Mens/Boys restrooms. Upon entering these bathrooms you are sometimes faced with the limitation of only having one or two actual toilets, as we have chosen to instead just build urinals where actual toilets could be. This decision limits the capabilities of men's rooms as the options for doing a #2 are reduced. Ironically, this bill is not just anti-trans and anti-privacy, it's actually anti-men.

In closing, I request that you respect everybody's privacy when it comes to our bathrooms and respect our school districts' decisions to build their bathrooms in equitable and efficient designs.

Please vote 'Do Not Pass' on HB 1144.

Thank you for your civil service to our state.

Sincerely,
Dalton Erickson
Executive Director
North Dakota Human Rights Coalition