

1 Testimony in Opposition to HB 1144

2 Submitted by Darin Scherr

3 Business and Operations Manager, Bismarck Public School District.

4 My name is Darin Scherr, and I serve as the Business and Operations Manager for
5 Bismarck Public Schools (BPS). I am submitting this testimony in opposition to
6 House Bill 1144, which would impose new mandates related to restroom
7 accommodations in public schools.

8 Bismarck Public Schools is committed to maintaining safe and functional facilities
9 that serve the practical needs of our students. HB 1144 would create unintended and
10 costly challenges for school districts across North Dakota, including BPS.

11 Currently, Bismarck Public Schools utilizes shared handwashing stations located
12 outside of restrooms, which serve both boys and girls. This design has proven
13 effective for both hygiene and supervision purposes. In addition, in many older
14 schools at the primary grade levels, we have single bathrooms with handwashing
15 located in the classroom. Currently HB 1144 would prohibit restrooms of different
16 designations from sharing a communal area.

17 Enforcing such a restriction would require significant, unnecessary renovations to
18 existing facilities — not to improve student safety or well-being, but simply to meet
19 a new, rigid configuration that does not reflect the practical realities of our schools.

20 In summary, Bismarck Public Schools respectfully urges the committee to oppose
21 HB 1144. It would require costly modifications to existing functional facilities.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective.