

Dear Chairman Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee,

I strongly urge you to reject HB 1181. This bill attempts to strictly define gender as an individual's biological sex at birth, forcing all state-funded entities to adhere to this definition. As someone who identifies as Trans-Non Binary, I can confidently say that this bill would have devastating consequences for the LGBTQIA+ community.

My name is Chelsea, and until today, I've hesitated to publicly share my identity due to fear of backlash. However, I can no longer remain silent, not just for myself, but for the countless queer individuals I know and love, and those who don't know me but deserve to see they're not alone.

Being Trans-Non Binary means I don't identify solely with the female body I was born into; I'm a human being with a complex identity that can't be reduced to simple binaries. This isn't a choice I made one day; it's an inherent part of who I am. If I had a choice, I'd choose to be something that would get me less hate.

Sadly, I've struggled with my identity for a long time, and the past six months have been particularly challenging. The constant attempts to erase my existence by certain groups and organizations have taken a toll on my mental health.

I ask you, how does my gender identity or sexual orientation affect you or anyone else in this state? I simply want to live as myself without being questioned about my gender. Does it truly matter? The answer is no! I am a human being and my name is Chelsea, It's nice to meet you!

Please reject this bill, as it would create more division and pave the way for transphobic and homophobic hate. Trans people have existed for over 100 years, and we won't disappear just because some individuals believe we don't deserve to exist.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Chelsea Gagner  
District 32