

Erin Price
Bismarck, ND

22 March 2025

Dear Chairman Ruby and Members of the House Human Services Committee,

I am writing to express my strong **opposition to HB 1181**. As the faculty advisor for my school's LGBT+ Club for over 15 years, I have had the honor of working with students who identify as transgender and nonbinary, and I've seen firsthand the importance of providing them with the recognition, respect, and support they need. The passage of this bill would threaten the dignity of these students by denying their identities and erasing their existence in our schools.

Transgender students are already vulnerable to higher rates of bullying, mental health challenges, and social isolation. HB 1181, by restricting how gender identity is addressed in our schools, would further marginalize these students, and contribute to a hostile environment where they are not allowed to fully express who they are. We must provide transgender students with spaces in which they feel seen, valued, and understood – spaces that reflect their identities and experiences.

For over 15 years, I've watched transgender students grow into confident, self-affirmed individuals when given the opportunity to have their gender identity recognized and respected. The sense of belonging and recognition they experience in the LGBT+ Club and other supportive spaces is vital for their emotional and mental well-being. Denying transgender students the right to be recognized for who they are only harms them and sends the message that they do not deserve the same dignity and respect as their cisgender peers.

I urge you to consider the profound impact this bill would have on the lives of transgender students. These young people need our support, not policies that make them feel invisible or invalid. It is our responsibility as educators and community members to ensure that all students, regardless of their gender identity, are given the recognition and respect they deserve.

Please do not allow HB 1181 to erase transgender students from the acknowledgment they need to thrive in our schools. I ask that you oppose this bill in order to protect the well-being, dignity, and rights of transgender students.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Erin Price