

Chairman Beard and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1181 and request that you give a Do Not Pass recommendation.

This bill seeks to define sex, gender, gender identity, and gender expression solely based on an individual's assigned sex at birth and to enforce DNA testing. Such measures contradict established scientific research and medical practice.

There are millions of people around the world who have sexual characteristics that do not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies. Many, though not all, of these people identify as intersex. Intersex is an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural variations that affect genitals, gonads, hormones, chromosomes or reproductive organs. Sometimes these characteristics are visible at birth, sometimes they appear at puberty, and sometimes they are not physically apparent at all.

According to experts, around 1.7% of the population is born with intersex traits – comparable to the number of people born with red hair.

Enforcing this law would be invasive, such as reviewing medical records to ensure compliance with the bill's language. This violates patient privacy and conflicts with the ethical/legal standards of medical practice. Such measures would also undermine trust between patients and healthcare providers.

Policies like HB 1181 foster exclusion and discrimination.

I request that you reject this bill that will only harm North Dakota citizens. Thank you for your time and the work you've done this session.

Sincerely,  
Mariah Ralston