



*Representing the Diocese of Fargo
and the Diocese of Bismarck*

103 South Third Street
Suite 10
Bismarck ND 58501
701-223-2519
ndcatholic.org
ndcatholic@ndcatholic.org

To: Senate Education Committee
From: David Tamisiea, Executive Director
Date: March 24, 2025
Re: HB 1181 — Official Word Usage on Gender

The Catholic Church insists that transgender persons must be treated with compassion, kindness, and respect, and therefore opposes any form of hatred, violence, or unjust discrimination toward them. Persons who identify as transgender are created and loved by God, and Christians are always called to love them with the love of Christ. Even so, the Church must always “speak the truth in love” (Eph 4:15), and therefore speak the truth about the nature of the human person as being either male or female.

While sexuality clearly involves the body in terms of sex chromosomes, hormones, internal reproductive organs, and external genitalia, it also necessarily involves the soul as the substantial form of the body that not only actualizes it as a human body, but also constitutes it as male or female. It therefore makes no sense whatsoever to speak of having an internal gender identity that differs from one’s external biological sex. Human sexuality is a matter of the whole person, male or female, through and through. No amount of masking, hormones, or surgery can alter this natural, deep-seated, complementary, and purpose-driven sexual order and design.

The common-sense reality of being male or being female should be reflected in our speech. House Bill 1181 requires that words referencing an individual’s gender shall mean the same thing as the individual’s biological sex in all official policies, procedures, and documentation of the State of North Dakota.

The North Dakota Catholic Conference asks for a **DO PASS** recommendation on HB 1181.