



Dear Chair of Senate Education and Committee Members,

I urge a 'Do Not Pass' on HB 1181.

We as a country focus on the individual and the individual's right to self determination. This is one of our core pillars as a nation. Our legal code is clearest when it is written using the term individuals and does not unnecessarily denominate gender or sex.

This legislation fundamentally misunderstands the concepts of sex and gender as they are understood by the scientific community while also possibly creating outlying legal conundrums. These issues could result in costly litigation which leads citizens to wonder 'Why did we even need this bill?' My answer to that question is "We don't."

The bill is anti-LGBTQ+ political virtue signaling. It is simply aiming to restrict the nuances of gender and force institutions to adopt an unscientific understanding of the concepts of gender and sex by tying the two together.

Gender and sex are two different things, and people in our state who are born intersex will be caught in an unnecessary legal grey area that can be prevented by the defeat of this bill. Trans and Two-Spirit people exist and our state's institutions need to recognize their existence. Two-Spirited people have existed in our area longer than the state of North Dakota has existed, and by denying this reality we would be perpetuating a colonialist genocide.

You cannot erase people's existence. The human right to self determination is one of our most fundamental rights and we cannot pass bills that deny people of this right.

Please vote 'Do Not Pass' on HB 1181.

Thank you for your civil service to our state.

Sincerely,
Dalton Erickson
Executive Director
North Dakota Human Rights Coalition