

Dear Chair Lee and the Members of the Human Services Committee, I am writing to urge a “Do Not Pass” on HB 1430.

I firmly believe HB 1430 is an injunction against the core tenants, education, and responsibilities of licensed clinical social workers. Our own sister state, Minnesota, recognized conversion therapy as harmful in 2022 via Executive Order (EO) 21-25. And I have to ask why are we as North Dakotan’s so hard-pressed on inflicting harm, pain, and suffering onto those who we deem different from ourselves. Conversion therapy is not ethical nor is conversion therapy necessary, healthy, or safe.

It is my firm belief that every North Dakotan and every American deserves the right to be themselves regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. To be clear, no one should ever be subject to conversion therapy.

HB 1430 further disenfranchises North Dakotan's from otherwise successful and prosperous futures. We all want the future generations of North Dakota to grow up happy, healthy, and hopeful to give back to their communities, but HB 1430 severely impacts that possibility for those who are just as deserving as everyone else to live as they are. I would hate to see the citizens of North Dakota robbed of that freedom.

As a lifelong resident of North Dakota, I urge the Human Services Committee to vote “DO NOT PASS” on HB 1430. Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,

Jayce Branden