

Madam chairman and vice chair Weston and members of the Senate human service committee, my name is Lori VanWinkle and I represent District 3 out of Minot.

I bring before you house bill 1430 which aims to reverse an administrative rule enacted in June of 2021 that mandates social workers to provide affirmation only services to individuals in their care, who are questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation. In addition, their rule makes it an ethical violation to offer questioning individuals a counseling or treatment program that would align with heterosexuality, or biological gender, even if the individual requested those services.

I will Read the rule I provided. You can follow along with the handout.

This administrative rule itself is unethical and discriminatory. It limits therapy options and forces an allegiance to ideological dogmas as the only source of treatment for questioning individuals. This rule is harmful, unconstitutional, and I believe it is illegally created.

Therapy must be able to offer solutions that suit the needs of individuals, and not just focus on furthering an ideological agendas. This Social Worker rule breaks their fiduciary duty to do no harm by restricting services to only allow services that are inherently immoral, and services that lead individuals down a path toward actions our state laws have begun to deem illegal.

If a client is questioning their gender or sexual preferences but wants to know about a treatment plan that will help them to accept their biological gender and a traditional heterosexual design for sexuality, it is not UNETHICAL as their rule currently states! It is actually the only ethical and helpful treatment if we really want to be honest in helping to solve the mental and spiritual struggle plaguing the minds of our questioning individuals in our culture.

Historically we have already seen the devastating ramifications of affirmation services in well-known cases like Chloe Cole, who is a de-transitioned youth. She is just one of the many youths who have suffered the medical abuse that follows affirmation only therapy. For Chloe, and countless others, the road to affirmation leads one way, the way of social transitioning and on to the path of puberty blockers, to cross sex hormones, and to body mutilation and plastic surgeries. All which is leaving individuals with a myriad of serious mental challenges, health side effects, infertility, and pain. All in the name of what the current Social Worker Rule calls ethical service!

Early intervention for gender dysphoria is critical to treat underlying psychosocial disorders like depression, anxiety, or suicidal tendencies and this should be done without forcing

counseling that forces promoting the gender dysphoria or sexual confusions. When that occurs up to 90% of adolescents will come to identify with their biological gender upon puberty! This rule as it is disallows this type of success rate from occurring.

Same sex attraction is not a life sentence either, it too is changeable, and to have a Social Worker rule calling it unethical to provide a counseling and treatment plan that can include traditional sexual values, when asked for, needs to be allowed. There are countless testimonies of people leaving their sexual confusion and sin of homosexuality behind. Some of those names are Sy Rogers, Jackie Hill Perry, and Rosaria Butterfield, all had identified as gay, but returned to the traditional values of heterosexuality.

Members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I urge you to support HB 1430; However, not as it came to you in committee, but as amended in the amendment I handed out. The amendment is actually just bringing it back to its original state as introduced in the House Human Service Committee. I will explain my reasoning on the amendment now.

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD. But those who deal truthfully are His delight.

In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity: And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil!