

Dear Committee,

I grew up in North Dakota and it took me almost 30 years to accept that I was Queer because so many people and policies in this state cannot bear to accept the true fact that many forms of love and gender non-conformity has existed since the start of humanity and are now trying to make it so students cannot learn this fact. If you enact SB2244, more people will experience the same childhood as mine and I do not want others to grow up as I did, living in fear of living as their authentic selves and will not be safe or comfortable in this state.

All I have heard from men in positions of power in the state since I was a teenager is that North Dakota needs young people to stay in the state. But young people will not survive or stay in the state if you enact bills such as this one, because they may not know that their identity is valid, normal, and accepted in the world.

For example, I am doing everything in my power to leave the state and never return as soon as possible, because I am so sick of the legislature trying to decide if my existence is valid in their eyes. I know what my worth is, and I know that if the state of North Dakota cannot recognize it then there is no point in staying and suffering.

Please be decent humans and do not vote for SB2244.