

Dear Committee,

Growing up in North Dakota, the second I realized I was Queer I knew that I would not feel accepted or safe in this state because the legislation around LGBTQ+ has been abysmal toward my community. I will freely admit that I experienced a lot of mental anguish knowing I lived in a state where it was hard to openly be myself because some old white men in Bismarck have more bigotry in their heart than kindness.

While this bill is only a steppingstone, it is progress in the right direction. This bill is a sign for the LGBTQ+ youth of North Dakota to grow up knowing there can be place for them. This bill is a sign that North Dakota can be an accepting place.

Please vote in favor of SB2264.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Fricker