

I am writing in opposition to HB 1298. I have been a general pediatrician in North Dakota for 13 years, and live in Fargo. I oppose this bill because as a licensed physician in the state providing care for LGBTQ+ youth I have seen the burden discrimination has on our youth. A large body of research shows that supporting an individual's gender identity drastically reduces suicide rates in youth. Rates of depression and anxiety also decrease.

There is no categorical advantage being male has over being female in athletics. Spontaneous genetic mutations which result in an individual possessing unique traits that place them at an athletic advantage are not routinely screened for in athletics, and are felt to occur in the same number of individuals who identify as a gender that is not congruent with their gender assigned at birth. As written, this piece of legislation is based on the personal views of its authors rather than evidence. I urge you sincerely to recommend a Do Not Pass on HB 1298.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hanson, MD FAAP