

I'm Jay Scott; I'm a lifelong North Dakota resident; NDSU 2016 graduate with a bachelor's in physics and computer science (Go, Bison!); daughter of Scott Wieber, former tournament director at the Bowler, in Fargo; citizen; taxpayer; voter; Christian; and transgender woman.

I am testifying in support of a “do not pass” vote on HB 1298.

Existing sporting regulations already require trans athletes to be on hormone therapy 1 full year before competing in the division of their gender identity. At the age of 18 or younger – the age range which will be affected by this bill – 1 year of hormone therapy will have profound effects on muscle mass, bone density, & other performance-related characteristics of a student athlete. It is eminently reasonable and fair for transgender student athletes to compete in the appropriate division if they meet this standard.

HB 1298 goes beyond this reasonable standard, barring transgender students from competing altogether in a category fair to both them and their teammates.

Beyond unreasonable and unfair, it is not even constitutional— it clearly denies transgender children the equal protection of the laws, in violation of the XIV Amendment. It will only waste taxpayer money to defend, and in the end be struck down in court, as it should.

But worse than unreasonable, worse than unfair, worse than unconstitutional, worse than all these things, it is just plain un-Christian.

Christ said, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

There are only 2 reasons you might vote “do pass” on this legislation – ignorance, or malice. And the excuse of ignorance, I hope, has been taken away from you by the testimonies today. Which leaves 1 possible reason.

Vote “do pass” on this legislation, and you say to me and to all transgender North Dakotans, “I do not love you as I love myself. I do not love you as I love my neighbor. You are not my neighbor. Leave this state.”

Vote “do pass” and all you accomplish is stoke the image of North Dakota, both inside the state and without, to her transgender residents and to those who love us, as a place where people of diverse backgrounds and identities are unwelcome, unprotected, and unloved.

If you love your neighbor – your transgender neighbor – as yourself, vote “do not pass” on this discriminatory and ignorant legislation.

Christ will watch your votes, and so will your transgender neighbor.

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