North Dakota
House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

Legislative Assembly

Representative Brandon Prichard
District 8
8600 Creekside Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504-3952

C: 701-220-0624

bprichard@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Human Services
Agriculture

HB 1332
House Health and Human Services
Rep. Weisz, Chairman
January 24, 2023

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Rep. Brandon Prichard and I represent District 8 which includes rural and suburban Burleigh County, the entire area of Emmons County, and Wilton which is in McLean County. I am here to testify in support of HB 1332 which would allow individuals who identify as or believe they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer to receive healthcare that aligns with (1) their values, and (2) their request for care upon consent. This bill does not force conversation therapy upon non-consenting individuals. In fact, the term "conversion therapy" is not mentioned once in the bill. HB 1332 is only intended to expand counseling options for questioning individuals.

In June of 2021, the Administrative Rules Interim Committee amended administrative code to bar social workers from offering counseling services to people requesting care based upon their values if those values aligned with traditional marriage or biological fact. HB 1332 would reverse this rule by allowing for counseling services to be administered to patients based upon their traditional values. Why should counselors be required to only give care to affirm a sexual preference or gender identity? Why should an individual, child or adult, be excluded from counseling services based on their beliefs and request of care? Expanding options for mental health and sexual health care is needed because of the administrative rule created two years ago.

This bill is common sense. I ask the committee to support counseling services for questioning individuals that align with their values. I urge the committee to give HB 1332 a "Do Pass" recommendation.