

## HB #1473

I am writing in opposition to HB #1473. This bill is very insensitive and lacks understanding of what transgender individuals feel and the struggles that these people face every day. I am a parent of a transgender person and I want to do is shed some light on what devastation this bill will leave in its wake.

For the record, transgender people are born transgender. Being transgender isn't a choice nor a fad. Transgender isn't a way to get an edge in female sports or a way to get a look, peek or touch a CIS person. CIS, is a term referring to those who identify as the gender they were born. My child, as well as all other transgender people are born transgender. In utero, the body forms first, the brain later forms. My daughter and I sat in a doctors office at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, where doctors explained that it is believe that during a crucial point of brain development, it is believe that the mother's body releases hormones that interfere with the brains formation, causing the brain to form the opposite gender than what the body already has developed as. In my daughter's case, her body formed male and her brain later formed female. Doctors at Mayo Clinic also informed me that it is through a MRI, her brain is actually that of other females. You see, males' brains are visibly different than those of females. My daughter's body and brain and not in synch with each other. Nothing I did or didn't do caused this and in turn, nothing my baby did to cause her to be transgender. This is a thing that happens in utero and as we all know nature isn't always creating life as it usually does. Individuals are born every day with cleft pallet, blindness, deafness, spin other irregularities. We as a society take pity on those born with irregularities that can be seen with the naked eye but yet discriminate or negate those who later in life say they are transgender, a boy trapped in a girl's body or vice versa. Society has yet to recognize the apathy and cruelty of denying these individuals the same rights as their CIS counterparts.

Transgender people should be allowed to seek treatment and become whole. It is NOT the transgender person they were born with their body and brain not in synch. Furthermore, it is cruel and just as unjust to deny these people from identifying who they are at school, work, as an incarcerated in jail, penitentiary or youth facility. Imagine going through life having someone call you the opposite sex then what you identify with. How comfortable would you be? Now imagine having to be forced to shower, use the bathroom with the gender you don't identify with. That would be traumatizing for anyone.

What this bill, HB 1473, would do is put transgender people at risk of being assaulted physically and mentally by peers, faculty, staff, employers and people who are in authority positions such as a correctional officer. Transgender people have civil rights just like their CIS counterparts. What this

Legislative body doesn't realize is the transgender people are not the ones who act out aggressively. The aggressors are the CIS people they come in contact with at school, work, out in public or as an inmate. Transgender people just want to live their life as their CIS counterparts do yet it's the insecurities, ignorance and bigotry what causes the CIS population to become violent or aggressive. My daughter suffered indignities from her peers at school as well as the faculty and staff at the schools. Each time there was an incident, the administration protected the aggressor and my daughter had no "safe haven" at school. Yet my daughter carried herself with the dignity and strength that I rarely see in adults let alone in middle school or high school.

Transgender people should not be victimized by the State of North Dakota by forcing these individuals to use bathrooms, locker rooms, shower facilities that they do not identify as. I do believe the State has no idea how to handle this but there are organizations and agencies that do know how to address bathroom and locker room situations. Also I do believe education for everyone involved is also paramount to the success of any policy. Knowledge is power and once people know what to do and what not to do, hopefully, they do better. In the event that a person doesn't do better, after being educated, then a consequence should be given.

You would punish a baby for being born deaf so why punish a transgender person? The transgender person didn't ask to be born transgender. Compassion, understanding and empathy are required. Anything else is discriminatory and cruel. Is that what North Dakota wants to be known for, how cruel it treats it's transgender citizens? Is this a way to drive transgender citizens to leave North Dakota?

As a parent of a transgender person I fear for my child every day due to the lack of protection there is for her here in this state as well as how this Legislative body sees her and others like her. My daughter needs protection, yet your bills read as if the CIS people are the ones that need protection. That is so messed up. My daughter had friends who had to protect her from bullies at school who threatened my daughter and the friends who defended my daughter. The school did nothing to the aggressive CIS female until an actual physical encounter between this aggressive female and a totally different CIS girl, someone whom the aggressive female bullied in the past, had occurred. I had warned the principal before this event that the aggressive female's aggressive behavior was escalating and yet nothing happened until the two CIS youths got into a physical altercation in the cafeteria. This isn't an anomaly. Transgender people don't go out in public to go cause chaos and see what they can get by with; that is the false narrative that the radical religious right wants to depict to it's followers. Fox News and the like are notorious for their fake spin on transgender people.

When my daughter uses the bathroom she is doing what I and every other female does in there, we use the toilet. Plain and simple. She isn't in there to look at anyone else and this goes for using showers and locker rooms. That's a scare tactic that the ignorant and those who lack any understanding of what Christ our Lord taught. Our Lord wouldn't treat transgender people by forcing them to use facilities that makes these people feel unwanted, unsafe and not cared for. Would you want your child to go to

school where their rights were violated. Would you want your child to have to face unsafe situations like using the boy's bathroom when she looks, feels and identifies as a female? Could you tell your daughter that these people are doing the right thing? Well, I can say honestly, I couldn't and didn't feel that forcing my daughter to use the boy's bathroom was the right thing for her. What it did do was cause her to not to eat or drink during the day so she wouldn't have to use the bathroom. Now does that sound like someone who is out to take a look at your daughters? No, but it did put my daughter at risk of physical ailments let alone the discomfort of being thirsty, hungry or needing to use the bathroom. Where was my daughter's "safe haven"?

If you want to do your job as a Legislators the most accurate and complete way, you will talk to a transgender person or a parent of a transgender person. You would take into account how life is for the transgender person and how the bathroom, locker room, showers and even jail would. You will seek out agencies that would discuss how to address your concerns and answer questions you have.

If this bill is successful, who next is in your crosshairs? Gays and lesbians? Native Americans or people who do not identify as being white? These questions and my concerns are legitimate and valid. Anyone who supports a bill yet knows nothing about the people the bill attacks shows how uncaring and misinformed they are.

I strongly encourage you to vote DO NOT PASS and then reach out to a transgender person or parent of a transgender person. Hear their story. These people deserve the same rights and privileges that you and I, all of us enjoy and take for granted.

Thank you,  
Kristie Miller