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House Bill No. 1473
House Human Services Committee
Testimony Presented by Seth O'Neill, JD, MSW
Email: soneill@cawsnorthdakota.org
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Chairman Weisz and members of the Committee, my name is Seth O'Neill and I am representing CAWS North Dakota in opposition to HB 1473. CAWS North Dakota is the statewide coalition of the domestic violence and sexual assault programs in North Dakota.

This bill would require our facilities to designate restrooms or shower rooms for exclusively male or exclusively female and allows for reasonable accommodations for transgender or gender non-conforming clients.

This bill is odd because it is imposing a requirement on a private facility without providing for any penalty and enforcement mechanism. The rest of the entities in this bill are public or state-sponsored institutions and are responsible to the public. If this bill becomes law, these public institutions would be responsible to follow the law. However, domestic violence sexual assault organizations are non-profit organizations. This bill is unnecessary because these our member programs already have appropriate policies in place.

For these reasons, we encourage the committee to give HB1473 a do not pass recommendation. I appreciate your time and I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.