

Bill 1473 is not only a redundant waste of time, as all issues of bathroom usage in these facilities are already regulated by policy and therefore attempting to solve a problem that doesn't exist but is entirely dishonest in its attempt, in section 6, to slip a means by which to ban transgirls from competing in school sports into a bill that has no business including it. DO NOT PASS this bill.

If the state legislature is so desperately concerned with the segregation of state bathrooms (???) that it needs to pass clarifying legislation on the matter, that's one thing though I find it hard to believe the existing policy doesn't accomplish the job, as even back in the early 2000s, UND had dorm bathrooms segregated by sex and a unisex single bathroom for guests to the floor and there were never any issues at all during my tenure there. But section six should be struck entirely from this bill if the use of and segregation of bathrooms is the matter at hand and of concern.

I find it extremely telling that section six is the only section which does not explicitly state that the language should not prohibit the accommodation of trans or gender-nonconforming individuals. That the state would choose to make those accommodations in ALL of its other dealings with sex/gender segregation with the SOLE EXCEPTION of school sports calls all the more attention to the fact that this section is intended to be entirely discriminatory.

As I have said in my opposition of bills 1489 and 1249, trans kids are THE MOST in need of our support and the acceptance of their peers, and participating in school sports, being part of a team that corresponds with their gender identity is EXACTLY the kind of activity they should be ENCOURAGED to enjoy. This bill excludes, discriminates against, and further marginalizes a group of children already subject to bullying, abuse, and harassment for being brave enough to exist as their true selves. They deserve to be able to be part of teams that reflect the people they know themselves to be!!

NO ONE is asking for this bill, which seeks to solve problems that don't exist on every level, and NO ONE needs this bill, because the number of trans kids participating in school sports in this state is so vanishingly small that there is absolutely no reason for such an outsized investment in driving them out of sports teams designated for "Girls." As far as I can tell, the issues of legislating the use of bathrooms is only serving as a smokescreen in order to bypass the will of your constituents, who last session, made EXTREMELY clear our feelings in opposition to this kind of legislation. IF the legislature cannot pass this legislation honestly, perhaps it should reconsider the effort it has expended in writing these discriminatory and exclusionary anti-trans bills at all.

PLEASE, if you have no empathy for transgirls who are already struggling to find community and belonging in a state that has revealed itself to be (with every one of these bills revealed) BEYOND hostile to their existence, remember this: You cannot attack and target transgirls without allowing and encouraging the attack and targeting, the bullying and harassment, of ALL girls. For trans exclusionary people, there will always be a girl who is not feminine enough, who is too masculine to possibly be what she says she is, and she will ABSOLUTELY be harmed by legislation that codifies a means by which to challenge her gender identification in order to make room for someone who is performing their gender up to the arbitrary standard they've set which will do FAR MORE to hurt children across the state than allowing transkids to play grade school sports EVER could.

Just let the kids live! Let them play! Let them be part of teams and enjoy their childhoods on their own terms! There is absolutely no reason for the state to interfere in any of this.