

## **Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,**

My name is Maura Ferguson and I am writing this testimony as a resident of ND and independently from my employer. My views do not represent my employer. I write to you today as a community organizer, a mother, and as someone who cares very much about the LGBTQIA+ community.

I strongly oppose HB 1473 and urge you to do the same. Transgender and gender nonconforming people should have the right to use whatever restroom, bathroom, and/or locker room that correspond to their gender identity without the need for a reasonable accommodation request, as being transgender is not a disability and should not be treated as such. Moreover, making such a request could cause a transgender person to out themselves unnecessarily, which could put their safety at risk.

This bill is completely unnecessary, is rooted in fear, and is an attempt to legislate a complete nonissue. Lastly, this bill is part of a slew of bills aimed to harm LGBTQIA+ North Dakotans. Please don't participate further in this harm.

I urge you to vote Do Not Pass on HB 1473.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and for your dedication to ALL people in the state of North Dakota.

Maura Ferguson, LMSW  
Grand Forks