



**Kayla Schmidt – Interim Executive Director, North Dakota Women’s Network  
Opposition – HB 1473  
North Dakota House Human Services Committee**

January 24, 2023

Dear Chair Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Kayla Schmidt and I am the Interim Executive Director of the North Dakota Women’s Network. We are a statewide organization with members and advocates located across North Dakota. I am providing testimony in opposition to HB 1473.

Within our mission to improve the lives of women, we have three areas of focus: leadership, opportunity, and equality. HB 1473 is a direct conflict to the positive outcomes we work to create through those areas of focus.

HB 1473 adds needless language regarding the use of restrooms, locker rooms, and shower rooms in a public school, a dormitory or living facility controlled by the state board of higher education, a correctional facility, a domestic violence sexual assault organization facility, the North Dakota youth correctional center, and the penitentiary, as well as prohibit transgender students from participation in athletic events.

Bills like HB 1473 create an environment of discrimination and exclusion in North Dakota institutions. It only serves to interfere and create confusion about policies that that are best handled by those working in these environments. Whereas we often hear about the need to invest in North Dakota’s economic growth, legislation like this is a deterrent for modern families and workers to want to live or work in our state.

Similar attempts to pass discriminatory legislation in North Dakota has strongly been opposed by community leaders, athletic organizations, medical experts, social workers, parents, educators, students, faith leaders, representatives of local Chambers of Commerce and tourism organizations, and the LGBTQ+ community.

The North Dakota Women’s Network stands with these groups and asks that HB1473 receives a Do Not Pass Recommendation.

Thank you.

Kayla Schmidt  
director@ndwomen.org