



February 4, 2023  
Jonathan C. Frye  
Bismarck, North Dakota.

Testimony of Jonathan C. Frye, President of Dakota OutRight.  
Re: Support of HB1537

“The duty of the peace officer standards and training board to provide training on bias crimes, aggravated assault, harassment, and criminal mischief; to provide for a report to the legislative management; and to provide a penalty.”

Attn: Members of the ND Judiciary Committee.  
My name is Jonathan Frye and I do support HB1537.

The reasoning behind my support of HB1537 is because as an individual immersed in the issues of the North Dakota LGBTQ+ population and as the leader of an LGBTQ+ organization, I am sensitive to the ongoing concerns and needs of these peoples.

This bill would assist this community with the following:

1. Collection of bias crime information would allow objective information gathering to show quantitative data for interested parties on the issues and ongoing needs of the LGBTQ+ communities of North Dakota, where issues are arising, and how they may be addressed and remedied.
2. Assisting peace officers with furthering and ongoing education in distinguishing bias crimes, how to understand and assist with issues surrounding any bias crimes, and ensuring that the incident of bias crime is accurately and timely reported for tracking.
3. Offering the LGBTQ+ communities of North Dakota reassurance that peace officers are adequately trained, informed, and sensitive to the issues and needs of the communities that they are serving.
4. Permitting use of reported bias crime information for public inquiry to supplement knowledge and education of issues in North Dakota regarding the LGBTQ+ population.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony, I respectfully ask that you provide a “DO PASS” recommendation to HB1537.

