

Testimony in opposition of HB 2231

Relating to preferred pronoun discriminatory practices and school policies on expressed gender.

House Judiciary Committee March 20, 2023

Representative Klemin and committee members. My name is Stephen McDonough. I am providing testimony in opposition to HB 2231.

I am a board certified pediatrician who worked in North Dakota for forty years, from 1980 to 2020. I worked at the NDDoH from 1985 to 2000 and served at times as the State Epidemiologist, AIDS/Project Director, Director of Maternal and Child Health and Chief Medical Officer. As a pediatrician, I provided primary care to LGBTQ adolescents and treated them with dignity and respect.

If a person wants to be addressed by a pronoun due to a change in gender identity, they should be addressed as they prefer. It is really none of the state of North Dakota's business to interfere with this.

We have a Legislature considering around 20 anti-transgender bills, all based on lies and misinformation. These terrible bills have given our state the reputation of being anti-science and one of intolerance and hate. Nearly 70 religious leaders and over 200 medical providers have recently published letters to the editor opposing these hateful bills.

The North Dakota Legislature should not be bullying transgender individuals. HB 2231 needs to be defeated.

Stephen McDonough MD