



**TESTIMONY on SB 2231
from the
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS—NORTH DAKOTA CHAPTER
to the
House Judiciary Committee
March 20, 2023**

Chair Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

NASW-ND urges the members of the House Judiciary Committee to **vote DO NOT PASS on SB 2231. SB 2231 will discriminate against and harm transgender and gender non-conforming government employees and public-school students throughout North Dakota.**

The bill will result in inconsistencies in preferred-pronoun use and recognition of gender identity, will create confusion among government employees, public-school students, teachers, and staff, may promote bullying of transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals, and will cause further trauma for transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals.

According to The Trevor Project, in North Dakota in 2022:

- 38% of LGBTQ youth in North Dakota seriously considered suicide
- 16% of LGBTQ youth in North Dakota attempted suicide
- 64% of LGBTQ youth experienced discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity
- 40% of LGBTQ youth experienced threat or harm based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

By encouraging disrespect for government employees and public-school students due to their gender identities or expressions, SB 2231 poses a serious threat to the wellbeing of these employees and students. The bill will deny transgender or gender-nonconforming individuals the opportunity to work or learn in an organization or school that recognizes and respects them.

All individuals, regardless of their gender identity or expression, deserve to work and be educated in a safe environment with colleagues or teachers who respect them for who they are and how they express themselves. **The NASW-ND respectfully requests that the House Judiciary Committee votes Do Not Pass on SB 2231.**

Submitted by:

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