

I oppose SB 2231. To vote in favor of it is to express hatred and disregard of a significant part of our population especially when you include the numbers of people that care about them and for them. It is to encourage hate crimes, bullying, and violence against transgender persons and their allies.

Citing proponents' discomfort in being told to consult people about their preferred pronouns and using THAT as the reason for proposing this legislation is showing very fragile egos and senses of self and problems of the proponents that go well beyond the supposed rationale for this bill. Other means for dealing with proponents' issues are needed. Empathy training is suggested.

I agree with the Human Rights Coalition's statements against the bill and repeat below the excerpts that I particularly agree with.

National research tells us that 75% of transgender youth feel unsafe at school and are more likely to miss school out of concern for their safety. The North Dakota Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS) data from 2021 indicates that suicide ideation and attempts are disproportionately higher for LGBTQ.

Evidence is as follows: middle school students who ever seriously considered suicide: straight – 22%; LGB – 65%; Transgender – 74.7%. Middle school students who have ever attempted suicide: straight – 7.5%; LGB – 29.3%; Transgender – 46.3%.

Passing bills that directly or indirectly target LGB and specifically Transgender students only enhance this environment by further targeting them within schools and community.

These bills harm children and restrict our freedoms.

National research tells us that 75% of transgender youth feel unsafe at school and are more likely to miss school out of concern for their safety. The North Dakota Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance (YRBS) data from 2021 indicates that suicide ideation and attempts are disproportionately higher for LGBTQ.

Evidence is as follows: middle school students who ever seriously considered suicide:
straight – 22%; LGB – 65%; Transgender – 74.7%. Middle school students who have ever attempted suicide: straight – 7.5%; LGB – 29.3%; Transgender – 46.3%.
Passing bills that directly or indirectly target LGB and specifically Transgender students only enhances this environment by further targeting them within schools

and community.

SB 2231 intentionally and cruelly targets a population; represents government overreach; violates the right to free speech; and bans the use of best practices. It is a proven fact that use of preferred pronouns improves mental health and reduces suicidality.

No clear purpose for the legislation other than to harass and terrorize an already vulnerable population