

HB #1254

68th Legislative Session

Senators: Boehm, Clemens, Estenson, Luick, Myrdal and Vedaa.

Representatives: Tveit, D. Anderson, Bellew, Prichard, Rohr and Van Winkle

I am writing this in opposition to HB #1254. I, like some of you, was born and raised in North Dakota. I also am a parent of a transgender person who is also a citizen of North Dakota. I am like you but with one huge difference, this bill, HB #1254, affects people I know personally. How many of you know a transgender person or have talked to a person or parent of a transgender person? While none of you know a transgender person so you have no experience to draw from, I do. I gave birth to a child who is transgender as well as know others in the State of North Dakota who are transgender. I do believe, after reading this bill, that none of you are acting in the best interests of children who are transgender, quite contrary, you are on a mission to seek out and annihilate any chance of these individuals of ever becoming whole. I want to give you my personal experience since your bill clearly shows none of you have had any interactions or conversations with a transgender person or a parent who is raising a transgender child in the State of North Dakota.

I noticed very early on that my child was not a rough and tumble boy. My youngest was very feminine and at a very early age gravitated to girl items such as dolls, clothing, books and movies that my oldest child liked. This didn't alarm me, being a farm kid, I spent plenty of time playing in the sandbox with my brothers Tonka Trucks and other boy toys. My youngest continued to show interest in girl items and even though we exposed both of our kids to gender neutral things like T-ball, Taekwondo, swimming lessons and gender neutral activities, our youngest still gravitated towards items that you would consider girlie.

Later in Fifth Grade, my child later understood herself and what she was seeing in the mirror and was then able to tell me that she was a girl trapped in a boy's body. I admit that I was very upset. I am ashamed to say that my child saw the worst in her mother that day. However, I am a person who has to find answers and so I got an appointment with a counselor that very week. It's with this family counseling did we learn that my daughter was transgender. That she was finally able to articulate who she was and we had learned to do because what we were all taught by others in school, at home then was that there were only heterosexuals and homosexuals. That concept is antiquated and what we learned is that there is a spectrum to human sexuality as well as the idea that we know everything about the human body. To date we still do not know everything about the human brain, why a body can cure itself of a disease, but we do know that Science is a living thing, and it is always evolving as well as human language.

Our journey took us to Mayo Clinic after a period of once a week counseling. At Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, that is where the team of doctors and nurses, psychiatrist looked at my child. We then sat down and discussed what the team concluded. My child is transgender. I asked how this happened and it was explained to us that it happens in utero; the body forms first, the brain then forms but it is during this stage of gestation is when it is thought that the mother's body has an unexplained surge of hormones which disrupts the brain formation and thus the brain forms the opposite gender than what

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the body had already been assigned. This isn't a choice but in fact something that happens and has happened since the beginning of time. Transgender is not a fad, it is not new and nor is it a choice. What transgender means an individual's body and brain not being in synch with each other. The doctors told me that under an MRI image, my daughter's brain is that of a female. Male brains are physically built different than females and those differences can be seen using MRI imaging.

HB #1254 targets people who are born differently. HB #1254 ostracizes transgender people from others who are born as CIS individuals. CIS is the term used to describe people who identify with the gender they were born as.

My child has been treated under medical supervision, and she is a happy person. If her treatment and care had been kept from her more than likely I would only have one daughter with me today. My daughter DOES NOT have the male muscle mass nor did she ever seek to be an athlete. My daughter just wants to enjoy life and be the happy female she identifies with as I do and as you do. The treatments and medication help the minor child until the age of 18 and it is then and only then that any surgery can be discussed and undergone. There is NO REASON for the State of North Dakota to intervene with transgender care whatsoever.

This bill does put citizens of North Dakota, who are already dealing with a very hard situation because of the bigotry and hatefulness that CIS individuals doll out, but this is adding a whole new level of distress. What happened to parents' rights? Do you think you know my daughter better than I do? Are you living with these transgender people, do you hear their concerns and fears or struggles? No, none of you know any of these. What the authors of this bill do concern themselves with is the false narrative that the news media like Fox News, social media like Facebook and the religious radicals have to say. Where do these entities glean their expertise from? Gossip pages on Facebook, Tucker Carlson or a religious leader who knows nothing but what they read from the foresaid false narrative spinners?

If any of you really were interested in doing what is best for the transgender youth in North Dakota, you would seek out time with the doctors who treat these individuals. You also would want to talk to the transgender community. How many of you have done that? I daresay none of you. What are you scared of? What harm has a transgender person ever done to any of you? Yet you posed to set in motion a bill that would tell this very small group in North Dakota that they can't seek help to become whole, that their doctor can be penalized for treating them. How many of you are doctors? What do you know of what the doctors do and their process or steps that transgender people have to go through to become complete? The blockers are reversable. The hormones are given after only a criterion has been met. Parent(s) and transgender person must both agree to go forward with blockers before they are given. So why do you, as authors and supporters of this bill, think you know best? Remember your interaction with the transgender community is nonexistent.

If you deny treatment for this group of individuals, then who is next? These people are born this way, by no fault of their own. So, in keeping pace with thought process with this bill and knowing who your target group is, anyone born with a discrepancy should be denied care or treatment. That means those who are born with any abnormalities, because isn't that how God made them? Also, then why allow anyone treatment for anything? After all isn't it God's will that a person develop cancer, have a heart

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attack, suffer a stroke, I can go on and on. Why is anyone then allowed medical treatment if you want to say it is God's will?

I grew up Catholic. I have experienced many different religions and backgrounds of others having lived in other states as well. How I view HB #1254 it is a bill that is targeting transgender people so they can't receive life affirming care, to make these individuals a non-issue in your mind. Why not make a law then to prevent young girls and their parents from seeking breast enlargement surgery? Why not make a bill that would outlaw anyone who has acne issues from going to a dermatologist and seeking derma treatments because after all, isn't that how God made them? No acne medication, also no medication at all since that is how our Lord and Savior created us, right? I ask you how many of you have had medical attention in the past? Why, isn't that illness, disease or maybe even body deficit the way God made you?

This bill is hypothetical and very much like what Hitler did do the Jews. I am sure all you know what Hitler did, he tormented the Jews. He removed every bit of humanity from them, then tried to erase them from existence. Is that your plan here? Is your vision for North Dakota to become a state that is eventually an Aryan state? That's the direction that this bill is going.

HB #1254 lacks any Christ like characteristic that Jesus would show transgender people. Christ embraced those who were considered cast outs. Jesus had empathy, compassion and love for those who were marginalized. Jesus sought to help and care for those who were suffering. This bill has none of those qualities and nor did the authors and supporters of this bill intend to have this bill offer any of what Christ taught.

I strongly challenge you all to sit back and really think of your motives and what direction these motives will take the State of North Dakota. Do you really want North Dakota to be known as a state that hates individuals and discounts those who are marginalized? How did that work out for Hitler? Don't pass a vote that affects people and causes harm to those whom you don't know. Step out of your comfort zone, examine yourselves, your motives and open yourself to the fact that what modern Science, 21st Century Science, proves is that the world isn't black and white, that what we were taught was wrong, the world is not flat as what once was thought, and that people who are transgender are born this way. The false narrative is that this is a choice or that this is a way to erase CIS female from sports is laughable and shows how little the authors of these bills and supporters know about the topic.

I encourage you to vote DO NOT PASS on HB #1254. Anything else is a hate bill and sends the wrong message to the citizens of North Dakota. You owe it to the transgender community and their families to seek knowledge and first hand experiences from these individuals. It is only then that you can say you are doing the citizens of North Dakota due diligence.

Thank you,
Kristie Miller
Parent of Transgender