

HB 1256

68th Legislature Session

Representatives: Murphy, Frelich, Jonas, Kempenich, D. Ruby, Schauer, Schreiber-Beck, Strinden

Senator: Wanzek

I am in opposition to HB 1256. As a woman who is born and raised in North Dakota.

How many of you have been sexually harassed at work or any other public forum? How many of you had to listen to humiliating comments said to you about you or had unsolicited and unwanted touching from others at work or in any public forum? Has any of your female relatives or loved ones have had this happen? I have had the very unpleasant experiences in high school, and at my job.

My take from this bill is that there is a false belief out there that there is a huge amount of “false allegations” of rape, discrimination or sexual harassment in North Dakota. I do not believe that to be true and would like to see data proving me wrong. What this bill does is create fear and hesitation for those who have been the victims of discrimination, sexual harassment or rape. The fear of having a felony slapped on them, in the event that the legal system finds that their story not credible, only victimizes the victim a second time.

Let’s face it, North Dakota’s demographic is largely white, heterosexual males and it’s this demographic that places these allegations as “frivolous” or as what I have been told by this same demographic, “boys will be boys” or “that’s locker room talk”. I find that line of thinking offensive and condoning of such actions towards anyone other than their own family member. I’ve had discussions in which when I shared my experiences and asked how this male would like it if his daughter, sister or wife had been the target of such unwanted groping, talk or harassment he then said he wouldn’t like it. Yes, the very same individual who said “locker room talk” and “boys will be boys” wasn’t so dismissive when he was put to the test of having his loved one the target of these harmful actions. I ask you, how many of you would be ok with having your loved one be faced with the choice of coming forward and risk not only having to go through recalling the emotional and traumatic events but then also risk being accused of making a false allegation and facing a felony?

There are laws already on the books and a process in which law enforcement investigates and puts the facts before the legal system to judge. This bill only adds insult to injury and doesn’t protect anyone. Let the legal system do its job, as it has, and stop this witch hunt. There is no reason for this bill.

How can the GOP party endorse such a bill yet refuse to pass the Hate Crimes bill? There is a need for such a bill but the GOP says there’s already enough protection on the books protecting minorities, the LGBTQAI community and women BUT now you want HB #1256?

The hypocrisy is glaring! There is no need for this bill. White, heterosexual men in North Dakota are not targets nor need any more protecting than women, LGBTQAI community or minorities in North Dakota. This is a case of what’s good for the goose is good for the gander. This bill is making a mountain out of a

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mole hill. There are more legitmist cases of discrimination, sexual harassment and rape than there are false allegations.

The GOP party is doing its best to dictate what we citizens in North Dakota think, feel and how we live. I was always under the impression that the GOP party believed in "small government" and to let the people live a life with fewer interference from government. Either the GOP party has changed its ideology or the ND GOP thinks it's citizens lives needs to be governed by people who think they know what's best for it's residents. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Stop dictating how citizens of North Dakota should live. The target of this bill is LGBTQAI people who bring forth allegations of harassment and discrimination. Come on, make of your mind. Either North Dakota needs to do a better job protecting those who are hurt by discrimination, sexual harassment by utilizing the laws that are already in place OR the Hate Crime bill which was introduced and found not unnecessary needs to be reviewed. You can't declare that minorities, LGBTQAI and ethnics do not need additional protection but then support and pass this bill. That makes no sense unless you believe that white, heterosexual males are being accused falsely of malicious acts and in that case the current laws should be used and this bill isn't necessary.

Make up your mind! White, heterosexual males in North Dakota are not victims of a large amount of false sexual, discriminatory or rape allegations.

This bill, like so many others that the GOP party has produced and are supporting are harmful and unjust. Stop victimizing the marginalized in North Dakota.

Respectfully,
Kristie Miller