

As a mother of a transgender teen in the North Dakota Public School System, I strongly oppose HB 1473. To date, my son has had a positive experience with his public school providing him with bathroom accommodations. Prior to his transition, he struggled with mental health and frequently missed school. With the school's support of his transition, his mental health has improved greatly. He rarely misses school, is excelling academically with a 4.03, and is engaged in co-curriculars. If this bill moves forward, it would cause significant distress, increase symptoms of gender dysphoria, and make school an unsafe place for him to be. His anxiety and depression would deteriorate, and all of the progress made over the past few years lost. In short, this bill will harm the well being of my child. Please do not support this legislation and allow schools to make their own policies as it relates to restrooms, locker room, and shower rooms. This bill is harmful and discriminates against transgender people.