

Dear legislators,

I write to you as a human being, born in North Dakota, that has been openly transgender for over 8 years now. I genuinely fear for my life in these times. Trans women are mainly affected by this bill. A TERF is a trans exclusionary radical feminist, which means it's a person who supports feminism until it comes to trans women. It seems they believe that trans women are not women, which is not true. If you cannot recognize that these bills proposed around the country are an attack on a group of marginalized peoples I don't know what to tell you.

I fortunately went to a school that was fully prepared and equipped to make me and every other student comfortable; I didn't have to not go to the bathroom all day, and no one in my entire school cared at all, because everyone was educated and kind. Now, I am no longer in school but my heart aches thinking of how these young people may be treated differently and alienated from their peers. Segregating does no good but teach kids an us versus them mentality which will inevitably lead to someone getting bullied. Plus, what, is every school supposed to build new bathrooms? It's unrealistic. We need to do better for these individuals in our communities, especially now when it really just feels like the whole world wants us dead. Transgender people don't want to hurt anyone, we just want to be who we are without people wanting us gone forever.

If you care about the children of North Dakota you won't put them in risk of alienation, bullying, self-harm, or suicide. I am a transgender man from North Dakota in opposition of HB1473.

Thank you,
Oliver G Jensen
Fargo, ND