



100 4th St S, Ste 608,
Fargo, ND, 58103
Phone: 701-264-5200
Fax: 701-999-2779
www.canopymedicalclinic.com
Email: info@canopymedicalclinic.com

March 14, 2023

Re: HB 1473 - Relating to the use of Restrooms, Locker rooms, and Shower rooms

Dear Chair Lee and members of the Senate Human Services committee,

My name is Kara Gloe. I am a mental health therapist licensed in both North Dakota and Minnesota. I work at Canopy Medical Clinic. Among the primary populations of people I serve, are LGBTQIA2S+ folks. As such, I urge you to please vote **DO NOT PASS on HB 1473**. Transgender people are not sexually assaulting cisgender people in North Dakota or anywhere else. Therefore, this bill addresses no problem, rather it further to adds the stigmatization of LGBTQIA2S+ people. Easy access to a safe restroom should be considered a basic human right. Anything less will lead to increased rates of physical and mental health issues.

When I search for statistics on the number of cisgender people assaulted by transgender people in bathrooms, I find nothing in the news for North Dakota or anywhere in the country. However, I do find article after article citing statistics about the increased risk transgender folks face for merely existing. In 2019, CNN reported that researchers analyzing the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey found that 25% of trans or gender diverse students who had restricted access to restrooms in school reported being sexually assaulted in the last 12 months. That number jumps to 36% when trans or gender diverse students report having restricted access to bathrooms and locker rooms. For comparison, 15% of cisgender girls and 4% of cisgender boys reported being sexually assaulted in the last 12 months that same year. This bill does not protect our children. In fact, it does just the opposite by enabling more harm to befall them. That alone should make any consideration of this bill moot. Additionally, it cannot be overstated how much psychological harm is being done by merely introducing this bill, furthering the statistically defunct myth of the "transgender predator," and further marginalizing citizens of this state who already face higher rates of victimization in every facet of their life.

Also, transgender folks just need to pee! That biological fact does not change when people affirm their gender identity. Creating an environment where people must constantly perform mental gymnastics around accommodations of a basic human function leads to higher levels of stress, dehydration, UTIs, fatigue, and a variety of other physical and mental health issues. If enabling higher rates of victimization for children and adults and higher rates of mental and physical health issues is not enough, please know the taxpayers of North Dakota will pay for the public health crisis that follows this and other bills like it.

This bill has no redeeming qualities. Rather, it enables environments where children and adults are at higher risk for victimization, increase rates of physical and mental health issues, and dramatically increases minority stress. **Please vote DO NOT PASS on HB 1473.**

Sincerely,
Kara Gloe, LMSW
Canopy Medical Clinic