

March 14, 2023

RE: Opposition to HB 1473

Chairman Weisz and members of the Committee:

Ability to use facilities such as bathrooms is a basic human right. Imposing regulations to restrict or segregate specific groups of people invites further divide and hate rather than understanding and compassion.

If you have not traveled outside of ND or the USA much, I invite you to explore what other states and countries have done to recognize that humans have basic physical needs and use universal all-gender bathroom models. No one seems adversely affected and everyone is comfortable to go about their business and be on their way. We don't segregate our bathrooms in our own homes. Many businesses and buildings are too small or old to make modifications, but an option for inclusion can be achieved in most cases with ease. Locker rooms traditionally have had an option for private areas or all-gender options.

I appreciate the all-gender model in public spaces and often choose to use that option as a cis-gender, straight, middle-aged woman!

The transgender people I know are far more concerned with making sure they are simply accepted and fit in, they are not out to make anyone else uncomfortable as some news propaganda leads people to believe.

Let's show the rest of the USA that we are forward thinking here in North Dakota, and issue a recommendation of DO NOT PASS on HB 1473.

Thank you,

Tara Jensen

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