

Testimony of Mia Halvorson

In Opposition of HB 1473: “Relating to the use of restrooms, locker rooms, and shower rooms in a dormitory or living facility controlled by the state board of higher education, a correctional facility, a domestic violence sexual assault organization facility, the North Dakota youth correctional center, and the penitentiary exclusively for males and females.”

March 15th, 2023

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Mia Halvorson, and I am currently a North Dakota resident and undergraduate student taking classes at both North Dakota State University and Minot State University. I am double majoring in Human Development Family Science, and Social Work, with an emphasis on women and gender studies, our youth, and marginalized communities.

I take issue with the enforceability of this bill. Part of this bill seeks to force transgender individuals to use the restroom in college dormitory spaces where an individual under 18 is present. For one, it is not often an 18-year-old is present in these areas. I am currently a senior at my university, and I've only come across one individual who was under 18. They turned 18 around a week into the academic year. The only common reason I can think of where an individual isn't 18 yet is due to the weird dynamic of birthdays and a public school's policy around when a child can start attending kindergarten.

I was also recently discussing this legislation with the state penitentiary, and they indicated that in their newest shower room, all showers are single-unit. The state penitentiary also indicated that there are special policies around transgender inmates to ensure the comfort of all inmates.

I ask that you vote NO on HB 1473 for the reasons listed above, the reasons other individuals testifying provide, and the hundreds of additional reasons I could provide.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share this testimony.

-Mia Halvorson