



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony Supporting House Bill 1473

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Good morning Madam Chair Lee and honorable members of the Senate Human Services Committee. My name is Mark Jorritsma and I am the Executive Director of North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying on behalf of our organization in support of House Bill 1473 and respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on this bill.

We understand that some individuals choose to identify at various places on the gender spectrum, apart from their biological sex. That is certainly their right. The problems come when their gender identification causes harm to others around them, whether physical, emotional, or psychological harm. For that reason, we believe that biological males and females in state facilities should use restrooms, locker rooms, and shower rooms intended for their biological sex, not gender.

To give an example, a parent should not have to worry about their child or teen seeing the genitals of the opposite sex in a locker room or shower room in the ND State Youth Correctional facility. How can we justify requiring that a wife who has suffered sexual violence at the hands of a male must share a restroom at a domestic violence sexual assault shelter with a male, who might intentionally or unintentionally expose his genitals to her. For us as state to permit a situation where this traumatized woman would be reliving her emotional and psychological pain is simply unconscionable.

We are not naïve; we realize the internet exists where anyone can see any sort of sexual content imaginable. However, it is a choice to view that content, but having someone of the opposite sex suddenly strip in front of you in a locker room apparently is not your choice, by today’s standards. Further, seeing an image on the internet is dramatically different to interacting with a real person.

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action supports the right to safety and privacy for all North Dakotans. We believe in protecting the dignity of women and children, their right to privacy, and their physical and emotional wellbeing. For these reasons, we request that you render a “DO PASS” on HB 1473.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I am happy to stand for any questions.