

Senate Human Services Committee

House Bill 1522

Andrew Alexis Varvel

Written Testimony

North Dakota State Capitol

March 15, 2023

Fort Lincoln Room

10:30AM

Madame Chairman Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel. I live in Bismarck, District 47.

I disagree with House Bill 1522 as presently written.

On line 10, instead of “in consultation with”, the legislation ought to say “while fully informing.” The reason for this change is that the school district should not become party to family quarrels. Although it is important for parents to be informed, parents should not have veto power over reasonable accommodation for children who identify as a gender other than the sex they were born with.

If a child perceives his or her born sex to be a straitjacket, the worst thing we can do is to force the child to go against his or her inclination. If he thinks he is a she, or if she thinks she is a he, or if a child claims a gender identity which is xenogender, such as sandworm, hallucinogenic mushroom, or the color green, let's provide safe toilet space for the minor to indulge that person's fantasies.

But away from people of the opposite sex.

Throughout both this session and the last session, I have proposed the idea of two sexes, three genders. Natural men, natural women, and everybody else.

Although I could have done without its moral preening, the National Hockey League has provided a good example of providing a safe space for transgender and nonbinary youth – away from natural boys and natural girls.

<https://www.foxnews.com/sports/nhl-showcases-transgender-nonbinary-hockey-tournament-responds-criticism-twitter>

I am reminded of Aesop's fable about the Sun and the North Wind.

“The North Wind and the Sun had a quarrel about which of them was stronger. While they were disputing with much heat and bluster, a Traveler passed along the road wrapped in a cloak.

'Let us agree,' said the Sun, “that he is the strong who can strip that Traveler of his cloak.”

'Very well,' growled the North Wind, and at once sent a cold howling blast against the Traveler.

With the first gust of wind the ends of the cloak whipped about the Traveler's body. But he immediately wrapped it closely around him, and the harder the Wind blew, the tighter he held it to him. The North Wind tore angrily at the cloak, but all his efforts were in vain.

Then the Sun began to shine. At first his beams were gentle, and in the pleasant warmth after the bitter cold of the North Wind, the Traveler unfastened his cloak and let it hang loosely from his shoulders. The Sun's rays grew warmer and warmer. The man took off his cap and mopped his brow. At last he became so heated that he pulled off his cloak, and, to escape the blazing sunshine, threw himself down in the welcome shade of a tree by the roadside.”

Source: <https://read.gov/aesop/143.html>

When deciding upon legislation to regulate transgenderism, let's be like the Sun.

Not like the North Wind.

Thank you for your time.