

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My testimony is in opposition to Senate Bill 2231. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.

This bill's language would effectively serve to protect perpetrators of certain forms of harassment and discrimination, namely against people within the spectrum of sex and gender expression, in schools and workplaces within North Dakota. It constitutes a strongly insufficient understanding and legal framework of the realities of these forms of harassment, as well as the need to protect the individuals who experience it.

This proposed bill would not achieve anything beneficial for the state or people of North Dakota. Its enactment would curtail human rights unnecessarily, and for no purpose other than discrimination itself. To pass it would only make North Dakota a less safe place by eroding civil rights and encouraging prejudice and aggression. It is morally wrong to do so, as well as harming the reputation and civil rights of our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shane Thielges