

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Arielle Neumann a resident of Grand Forks Air Force Base Grand Forks District 42 and I request that you vote DO PASS on Senate Bill 2231.

Under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

This bill safeguards protections for free speech and free exercise of religion. If a person has a religious or moral belief that prevents them from using a preferred pronoun it is religious discrimination to force them to do so. This is because, if an individual is being asked to speak against their religious beliefs, under threat of discrimination charges, they are being prevented from freely exercising their religion. This would also provide protections for people who identify as having no religion but have a sincerely held belief to not use a preferred pronoun. Laws must be fair, equal, and protect everyone’s right to free speech, whether we agree with them or not. It is an individual’s right to use or to not use a preferred pronoun when referring to another person, and it should not be considered a discriminatory practice otherwise. Please vote DO PASS on Senate Bill 2231 as this protects free speech and free exercise of religion.

Sincerely,

Arielle Neumann.