

Hello. My name is Adam Miller and I am here to offer testimony in opposition to SB 2231.

First, I would like to thank so many members of the house and senate that have expressed their concern for the well being of children in the state. This bill, and many more like it, do not do that. I feel the senators and representatives' efforts could be better directed elsewhere if they truly care about children.

If you truly care about children, feed them. According to the organization Feeding America, about 1 in 12 kids in North Dakota, 14,490 children have food insecurity.

If you truly care about children, house them. According to the National Center for Homeless Education 1,775 children deal with homelessness in North Dakota.

If you truly care about children, take better care of their teachers so that their education can be second to none. According to National Education Associates average teacher pay in North Dakota ranks 33rd in the nation. At the higher education level it drops to 40th.

These are things that would actually improve the lives of children in North Dakota and they have nothing to do with pronouns or a culture war. These are things that actually matter and may help to stem the flow of young people out of the state and have nothing to do with if you have a moment of discomfort if a person asks you to refer to themselves as "she" when you thought "he". The children you help with working on these things will remember that North Dakota had their back when they were in need. That is what will pay dividends to the state.

I'm asking you to fix problems in the state that actually need fixing. Please vote no on Senate Bill 2231.