

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

January 25, 2023
Senate Judiciary Committee
Testimony in Support of SB 2231

Chairwoman Diane Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Linda Thorson, State Director for Concerned Women for America (CWA) of North Dakota. Today, I am testifying for Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee in support of SB 2231.

As the largest public policy women's organization in the nation and our state, CWA of North Dakota strongly supports SB 2231 as it protects the [First](#) and [Fourteenth Amendment](#) rights of an employee defined in the bill as "a person subject to the civil service or merit system or civil service laws of the state government, governmental agency, or a political subdivision."

I want to submit two amendments to SB 2231 in the definitions section, 14.02.4.02. I recommend changing the meaning of "Preferred pronoun" from "a pronoun that does not conform to the individual's *assigned sex at birth*" to "a pronoun that does not conform to the individual's reproductive biology and genetics at birth." And Section 3, part b. "Sex" change the words "*existing at the time of birth*" to "reproductive biology and genetics at birth."

As a former educator for 26 years and a recipient of the North Dakota Council for Exceptional Children State Teacher of the Year award in 2016, I strongly support Section 15.1-06-21 of the bill, entitled School policy – Expressed gender.

"A school district board, a public school or a teacher in a public school should not adopt a policy or practice regarding expressed gender" from line 12 on page 3 for two reasons.

- Forcing teachers to use "preferred pronouns" infringes on a teacher's right to free speech and the free exercise of religion. Policies that require a student to be referred to by gender, non-binary, or plural pronouns, or other gendered languages that are different from the student's biological sex violate the religious belief that God assigns sex at conception and is a conflict for those unwilling to compromise their beliefs.
- Teaching children about "preferred pronouns" steals valuable classroom instructional time and creates an undo burden on the instructor.

Fostering a [positive classroom environment](#) that is conducive to learning increases academic achievement and engagement for the student and is best achieved when the teacher isn't encumbered with "Expressed Gender policies." More about the issue of "gender identity" ideology and education can be found at [Campus Insanity](#) by Penny Young Nance, CEO and President of Concerned Women for America and [Gender Identity and Back to School Indoctrination](#) by Doreen Denny, CWA's Senior Policy Advisor.

Please vote "do pass" on SB 2231.