



SB 2231

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Christopher Scott, North Dakota Student Association

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Chair Larson and Members of the Committee: My name is Christopher Scott, I am current President of the North Dakota Student Association, and I am testifying in opposition of HB 1240, which if passed, will not require a government entity to require an employee to use a individual's preferred pronoun when addressing or mentioning that individual

The North Dakota Student Association is a student organization established in 1969 dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice at the table in policy that affects Higher Education. We consist of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions meeting monthly to engage students in ND Higher Education policy! Our mission is to empower students, create collaboration between the student bodies of the North Dakota public universities, and to give a student perspective on higher education policy!

Over the past several years, the NDSA has taken several stances protecting the rights of LGBTQ students, with the most recent resolutions passed being [NDSA-09-2223](#), which establishes our organization's priorities for this legislative session and [NDSA-14-2223](#), which is a resolution in support of transgender student rights.

What this bill specifically does is go against transgender student rights and makes it so that governmental employees cannot require employees to call a transgender student by their preferred pronouns. This is a personal attack against them and the use of their pronouns is of a matter of showing respect them, much like how we as students address our teachers in high school with Mr. and Mrs. and our professors with Dr. If you were to not call them Dr., Mr. etc, they would feel disrespected. The same applies to transgender students when someone does not

use their preferred pronouns, and while this bill mentions that the violation of this section is a discriminatory practice, its actually the opposite. Not using their preferred pronouns is a discriminatory towards them.

This bill also tries to solve a problem that is not there, but instead, it creates one. In my college career as a student, the topic of requiring a staff or faculty to use a student's preferred pronoun has not been a issue that I've personally seen. Usually, when requested, that staff or faculty member is respectful to transgender students, and use their preferred pronouns when asked to do so.