



NORTH DAKOTA

Family Alliance LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 2231

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Good afternoon Madam Chair Larson and honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Jacob Thomsen and I am a Policy Analyst for North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action. I am testifying today on behalf of our organization in support of Senate Bill 2231 and respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on this bill.

This bill does not prohibit the use of preferred pronouns. However, what it does, is protect against being forced to use preferred pronouns in accordance with Americans’ First Amendment Right to free speech.

Not using someone’s preferred pronoun can simply be a matter of confusion or unawareness. People often do not know what is going on with someone at a personal level, unless they know them closely. It cannot be expected that a person know and use someone’s pronouns perfectly if it does not align with common societal gender constructs. This can be a simple mistake, and no one should be punished for this.

The second part of this bill requires that a parent be notified if a child is expressing gender dysphoria. Parents are the primary stakeholders in a child’s wellbeing. They should always know what is going on in their child’s life so that they may seek the best possible solutions, or parent them in a proper way with regard to their child’s situation.

It is a parent’s responsibility to be involved in their children’s lives. Without this bill, hinderances to this are already occurring in North Dakota. Grand Forks Public Schools administrative regulation, in 2021, issued procedures stating that “school staff shall not disclose any information that may reveal a student’s transgender status to others, including parents or guardians – unless legally required to do so or the student has authorized such disclosure.”¹

¹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ewmtwcpuhuQWPe53v8HEgMMfCe8WGmIJ/view>

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This bill enacts the legal requirement to notify parents on the status of their children in school. It also protects freedom of speech in a workplace. For these reasons, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative action requests that you render a “DO PASS” on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I will stand for any questions.