

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1254**

House Human Services Committee on House Bill 1254

Date of Hearing: January 24, 2023 2:30 p.m.

Debra L. Hoffarth, 1320 11th Street SW, Minot, ND 58701

This written testimony is presented in opposition to HB 1254, which is an overreach into the private medical decisions of North Dakota residents.

Doctors and their patients should be allowed to make medical decisions without the interference of the government. The care and treatment of transgender children should be left to the informed decisions between the parents and their doctor, who know the child best. There is no room for the North Dakota Legislature for making these informed decisions.

Doctors are in the best position to determine if treatment is medically necessary, not the North Dakota Legislature. To criminalize a physician for providing care to patients, within the appropriate standard of medical care, is a gross overreach of the legislature's authority.

Provision of gender-affirming care is central to improving the health and well-being of transgender individuals.<sup>1</sup> It saves lives. Transgender children need access to appropriate medical care. All people within the State of North Dakota deserve dignity and respect when seeking needed medical treatment.

Please oppose HB1254.

Debra L. Hoffarth  
1320 11th Street SW  
Minot, ND 58701

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<sup>1</sup> Association of Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy With Depression, Thoughts of Suicide, and Attempted Suicide Among Transgender and Nonbinary Youth, Journal of Adolescent Health, Volume 70, Issue 4 (April 1, 2022).