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Please stop the war on trans lives.

Chair and members of the committee, I'm Elia Jay Scott; I've lived in Fargo, North Dakota, since birth; I'm a physics and computer science bachelor from NDSU, 2016; I'm a DSP for Fraser LLC, serving recently unhoused youth; and I am testifying against HB 1254, and more broadly – if I may – against all the anti-transgender bills that have been introduced this session by our state legislature, of which HB 1254 is only one.

Imagine (if you are not) that you are Catholic. And imagine that your state legislature proposes **21 bills** targeting, demonizing, and persecuting the Catholic community. One bans you from wearing a crucifix in public. One bans you from privately praying anywhere near a school. And one bans sale of alcohol for religious purposes, making it illegal for your church to obtain the spiritual medicine that keeps your soul alive, the Eucharist.

Now, instead, imagine that you are **transgender**. Instead of banning crucifixes, the state wants to ban you from going outside your house in clothes consistent with your identity. Instead of banning prayer in schools, they want to ban any school accommodation for your condition, gender dysphoria. And instead of banning the Eucharist, they want to ban the evidence-based, lifesaving healthcare that has saved your **actual, physical life**, and the lives of so many of your beloved friends.

That is what the North Dakota state legislature is doing right now. Republicans have introduced 21 – yes, 21 – bills, targeting, demonizing, and persecuting the transgender community, doing all I have described and more.

HB 1254 is perhaps the vilest. Gender-affirming care, or transition, is evidence-based, lifesaving healthcare. Transition relieves gender dysphoria, reduces suicidality and depression, and saves transgender lives; that is a **FACT**. To deny this is to deny reality. I know this fact three ways—

I know it thirdhand, because I have read the scientific literature. The vast body of the evidence and overwhelming consensus of the scientific community agree.

But I also know it secondhand, because it has saved the lives of my most beloved friends, who are alive today, whom I can hold in my arms living and breathing today, because of it.

And I know it firsthand, because transition saved **my** life. I will tell you, chair and members of the committee, that I had the barrel of a loaded rifle between my teeth multiple times in the days before I got on estrogen, on March 5, 2018; and I will tell you I have not had one deliberate suicidal thought since I woke up on the morning of March 6, 2018. So if you tell me to my face that transition is not lifesaving care, I will laugh in your face; and I will tell you, to your face, that you are either a liar or deceived by liars.

This bill targets trans kids. The supporters of bills like this will have the gall to say, “*There is no such thing as a trans child.*” Chair and members of the committee, trans people do not pop up out of the ground, fully formed, like golems. I was a kid; I'm trans; I was trans when I was a kid. I had recognizable gender dysphoria from the age of 6, if not earlier, a decade before I even knew the *word*

“trans”.

If you are a woman, I’d like you to imagine what it would be like to watch your body transformed in front of your eyes into a hairy beast, your voice broken like a foghorn, your face twisted and distorted, and your genitals turned inside out and hanging outside your body like prolapsed tumors, touching your legs every single second of every single day. If you are a man, I’d like you to imagine what it would be like to wake up one morning and look down and find that your own genitals were gone, replaced by a bleeding vagina; you open your mouth to scream, and a woman’s scream comes out. That is gender dysphoria. And that is what the supporters of bills like this want to subject trans children to, untreated. Whether they say it out loud or not, what they want, in practical effect, is for trans kids to kill themselves.

The pushers of bills like this are not respectable company. They include such figures as Matt Walsh, a self-identified “theocratic fascist”, who has openly said teenaged girls should be impregnated young. Tucker Carlson, who has been proven to lift his language directly from Stormfront, an openly neo-Nazi website, and is therefore himself a literal “ghostskin”, that is a neo-Nazi who doesn’t shave their head or get White Power tattoos, but instead tries to appear respectable and charismatic to appeal to the masses. And I will disclose to the chair and members of the committee that I am the niece of Peter Tefft, a notorious local Nazi in Fargo, who has called me a “race traitor” for not procreating with a White woman, a “spiteful little cuck” because I said I would marry a Jew, has openly joked to my face about throwing trans people and other undesirables into ovens, and believes trans people are a plot by the Jews to weaken the White male. I am simply telling you the facts when I say: This is the company the chair and members of the committee will be in, if you vote “do pass” on this bill.

I do not hyperbolize or exaggerate in the slightest, when I say this: A vote for this bill is a vote for **attempted genocide** – *United Nations definition genocide* – against a minority group in North Dakota, by stripping them of proven lifesaving medicine.

Chair and members of the committee, if you are Catholic, Christian, or a human being of conscience, I ask you ***please to vote NO on HB 1254 and on all these other anti-transgender bills***, and to stop this merciless, hateful war on our trans neighbors – whom, if we are Catholic, Christian, or people of conscience, we are commanded by God and human decency ***to love as ourselves***.

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