

Testimony of Mia Halvorson

In Opposition to HB 1254: "Relating to the prohibition of certain practices against a minor; to provide a penalty."

January 24th, 2023

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Mia Halvorson, and I am currently a North Dakota resident and undergraduate student taking classes at both North Dakota State University and Minot State University. I am double majoring in Human Development Family Science and Social Work, with an emphasis on women and gender studies, our youth, and marginalized communities – groups of people that certainly include transgender kids.

First and foremost, I would like to say that transgender kids are not getting gender-affirming surgeries within North Dakota. No insurance providers would cover that, nor would surgeons complete these surgeries without coverage.

Regarding gender-affirming healthcare, such as puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapy, I want to emphasize that these are life-saving treatments for some trans individuals. Trans individuals can start and stop these medications early in their transition with minimal to no side effects.

We should not be putting healthcare decisions into the hands of local politicians. We should leave these decisions to medical providers, parents, and their kids. Please create bills and laws that benefit the state of North Dakota, not bills that target and discriminate against transgender individuals.

I ask that you vote NO on HB 1254 for the reasons listed above, the reasons other individuals testifying provide, and the hundreds of additional reasons I could provide.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share this testimony.

-Mia Halvorson