

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in opposition of HB 1254. This bill is dangerous, discriminatory, and fails to consider the scientific literature and data that guides the best practice for treating gender dysphoria.

I am a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor in North Dakota, with nearly 10 years of experience in the field. To propose this bill under the guise of protecting youth is an insult. Access to gender affirming care is quite literally life saving. Taking away this access will cause harm. If you sincerely care about the youth in this state, as I hope most of you do, then you will have no choice but to vote DO NOT PASS on HB 1254.

I am extremely concerned about the negative implications on mental health outcomes for not only youth but all people in our state if a discriminatory bill such as this passes. Every human being deserves the right to bodily autonomy. Lawmakers have no business taking it away due to personal beliefs and fear of something they haven't taken the time to understand.

Please leave healthcare treatment to healthcare professionals.

Sincerely,

Andi Wheeler, MS, LPCC, LPC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "andi wheeler", written in a cursive, flowing style.