

I am testifying against House Bill 1254.

I think we all know that this bill is not about saving children from a danger. It is about othering and discriminating against transgender people. This bill is meant to incite fear to those who are vulnerable, and inspire hatred towards them. I would like you to consider this outrageous bill from my perspective.

I am transgender. I have been on life-saving hormones since I was 17. I was suicidal, and had made active plans to kill myself. I had been in in-patient psychiatric treatment, I had tried anti-depressants and therapy. I had friends and loving family, but I was still so utterly depressed that I thought about how to kill myself daily. It was Hormone Replacement Therapy, or HRT, that saved my life. Had I not been able to find a therapist who listened, who respected me and my identity, and an endocrinologist who did the same, I would not be here to write this to you.

I am not the only one. I am not an exception. Gender Affirming Care is vital to the livelihoods of countless transgender people here in North Dakota. This bill seeks to take away not only the happiness, but the lives of others. So I ask of you, do you want to be responsible for death? Can you live with your conscious? And WHO are you protecting?