

I would like to submit my opposition to this bill and request a no vote on this measure. I am a physician, and healthcare executive for the largest provider of pediatric and adult subspecialty care in the state of North Dakota. I am also the parent of a transgender son.

Gender affirming care is medically accepted and appropriate care for children that need this care. Like all medical care it should not be entered into lightly. It is collaborative and the decision should be left up to patients, parents in conjunction with their physicians. This care is no less important than providing care for diabetes, thyroid, or adrenal diseases. These are all cases that pediatric endocrinologists treat.

Making medically proven care that improves the quality of life for children with gender dysphoria a criminal action is unconscionable. If enacted North Dakota will likely lose such specialists, and perhaps many more fearful of a state that would seek to control the practice of medicine in such a way. This will harm many children across the state.

I understand the discomfort that people may have with transgender people, and believe me my wife and I struggled to understand this in my son, it was something we never expected. However, seeing our son happy, feeling the best he has in years and a productive health adult is a joy. Having, him feel it is not comfortable to live in North Dakota is a disappointment.

Please, don't listen to misinformation and inflammatory comments on transgender agenda. Vote no on this measure. Listen to medical experts, show compassion for all children and families in this state, even if you don't understand them all.

Thank you for reading,

Doug Griffin, MD

Vice President Sanford Clinic-Fargo