

Dear Chair Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee

My testimony is in opposition to house Bill 1254. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass recommendation.

When I moved to the United States 24 years ago the republican party stood for small, limited government, freedom for the individual right and self-determination and the right for parents to determine what is right for their children. This bill does not follow any these principles but is an example of government interference, government overreach and interference with parental decision making for raising their children and is contrary to the principles most of the committee members claim to adhere to. For this alone the bill should have a Do Not Pass recommendation.

In addition, I adhere to three principles in my Christian faith: do good, do no harm, and serve God. This bill does not do any of this. This bill does significant harm as it goes against the advice of the medical experts and prevents parents and care givers from making appropriate decision about health care for their children. Government has no business in this decision-making process. In addition, extensive research has shown it will decrease the mental health of transgender and questioning individuals and will increase suicide risk for transgender children as is documented in the 2021 ND Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The bill claims to protect children, but the opposite is truth, it will harm children and parent and reduces the ability of parents and doctors to do what is right for their children. This bill also does not serve God as it goes against the Golden Rule proclaimed by Jesus during his Sermon on the Mount: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". Members of the committee, you want the freedom to make your own medical decision. Jesus calls you to extend that same courtesy to others. This bill interferes with the freedom to make decisions about health care.

Taken together this bill is harmful and therefore deserves a Do Not Pass recommendation.

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