

While I do not live in North Dakota, the company I work for (AE2S) is headquartered in Grand Forks and has several offices throughout the state. In my role as Water Resources Practice Leader, I often travel to the state to help communities plan for flood and drought resiliency.

As a trans woman and as a parent to a trans kid, I am appalled at this legislation. My daughter, who is almost 14, came out as trans last year. Prior to coming out, she was a tentative, anxious kid, but the confidence that I've seen her gain in the last several months has been breathtaking. She went from someone who didn't like school to an 8th grader who is self teaching herself calculus, infinite series, and computer programming so that she (in her words) "can do cooler math". She also initiated the process to apply to a pre-college computer programming and information technology program at the local university. I could not have imagined this is the same kid that was my "son" a year ago.

My daughter also has access to appropriate healthcare. She is currently on puberty blockers, and will likely choose to start adult hormones in the next year so that she can have an adolescence that matches her peers. The puberty blocker is Lupron. This drug has literally been on the market for decades and used successfully to treat (mostly young girls) who start puberty way too early. Its effectiveness is proven. It's safety is proven. It is not life altering. It is merely a pause.

Finally, I have heard many times from transphobic "well meaning" adults that we can't let kids go through irreversible changes. I'm telling you – going through the wrong puberty as a trans person is irreversible changes.

Please, I'm begging you, vote this bill down.