

March 15th, 2023
From: ND Psychiatric Society
Re: In Opposition to HB 1254



NORTH DAKOTA
PSYCHIATRIC
SOCIETY

A District Branch of the
American Psychiatric Association

Madam Chair Lee, Esteemed Committee Members

My name is Gabriela Balf, I am currently a psychiatrist in Bismarck, I worked as an internist for 9 years, I have a Master's Degree in Public Health, and I am an Associate Clinical Professor at UND. Although I have many hats, I speak today on behalf of my psychiatric society, as well as on my behalf.

I have prepared a separate text that contains the main points of my testimony today:

- The Transgender Condition is a **real medical condition**
- Recent advances in medical science have also produced massive information about its biological causes – I will briefly review the brain imaging data
- Transgender healthcare is a **thorough medical process**, sanctioned by decades of research and massive data gathering
- There are **severe** consequences of **NOT** respecting the medical standard of transgender healthcare
- There are overwhelmingly **POSITIVE consequences** of providing the gender-affirming care

In sum, we thank you for the opportunity to bring this section of our medical association presentation.

We urge you to consider the amendments to the HB 1254 that would respect our patients and families' healthcare decisions AND would address the grave concerns and bring reassurance to all concerned ND citizens that only the most rigorous, correct care is provided in our state.

Thank you and I stand for questions.

Gabriela Balf-Soran, MD, MPH
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World Professional Association Transgender Health member