

Testimony in opposition to HB 1256

Senate Human Services Committee

Christina Sambor, North Dakota Human Rights Coalition

March 13, 2023

Chairwoman Lee and Members of the Committee:

I come before you today on behalf of the North Dakota Human Rights Coalition to oppose HB 1256. This bill is unnecessary first of all in that there are many different avenues through which false public allegations of any kind can adequately be dealt with. Civil defamation, criminal defamation, perjury, and fraud, and the rules of civil procedure, to name a few. The effect of this bill is simply to put up another “barrier” to individuals who seek to enforce their rights to be free from discrimination and harassment. This bill will have a chilling effect on what are already very difficult decisions for marginalized groups to come forward and assert their rights. Please vote do not pass on HB 1256.