

Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee, thank you for reading my testimony.

I am right-handed. I suspect you, too, know if you are right-handed, left-handed, or ambidextrous. How do you know? You just do. It is intrinsic knowledge. Unless you have to deal with smudges on your paper or you grew up in a time when teachers enforced right-handedness with rulers, you probably have not had to think much about whether you are a righty or a lefty. Gender is the same. You just know whether you are male or female. If your gender identity aligns with what society says it “should” be based on your body, like mine does, you have probably never had to think about your gender.

But transgender people are reminded every day of their gender.

Bills like HB 68 tell transgender children they are wrong, different, unequal. They are undeserving of medical care and the chance to play on sports teams. That message takes a toll. Hearing it day after day, especially from powerful bodies like this one, causes harm. This bill is the definition of bullying. This bill singles children out from their peers and sends the message from the leaders of our great state that it is acceptable to bully transgender people.

Bills like HB 68 tell the parents of transgender children that they do not have the same rights as other parents to make medical decisions for their children. Being a parent is hard enough without state government inserting itself into parental decision making.

Stop bullying children. Stop taking away parents' rights. Please do not advance HB 68.