



**NDSA-14-2223**

**A Resolution in Support of Transgender Students' Rights**

**WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

**WHEREAS**, the ND Legislature has numerous proposed pieces of legislation that would negatively impact transgender students' rights; and,

**WHEREAS**, the NDSA has made it a priority to protect the rights of transgender students for the 23-25 biennium; and,

**WHEREAS**, the NDSA previously passed resolutions in support of gender-inclusive policies (NDSA-10-2122) and defended the rights of LGBTQIA2S+ students in the NDUS; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the legislative session 23-25 biennium, a litany of bills has been brought forward and designed to invalidate sexual and gender identities; and,

**WHEREAS**, by reducing biological sex to a binary, a litany of proposed bills erases intersex individuals and conflates important terminology such as sex, gender, gender identity, and gender expression; and,

**WHEREAS**, these bills proposed would discourage both out-of-state and in-state transgender students and allies from attending any NDUS institution for fear of an intolerant environment; and,

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota has the lowest percentage of higher education transgender students in the United States; and,

**WHEREAS**, a reduction in the number of higher education students in North Dakota significantly diminishes the state's ability to grow capital and increase investments in workforce development and retention; and,

**WHEREAS**, bills that limit transgender students' rights would further decrease the demographics of North Dakota students; so,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the NDSA opposes any legislation that suggests, asserts, or assumes the invalidity of a transgender student's sexual identity, and limits transgender students from freedom of expression and creates, fosters, or introduces an unsafe learning environment for transgender students and allies.

***Approved by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly  
Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023***