



# North Dakota Small Organized Schools

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HB 1311 – Related to carrying a firearm at a public gathering

Testimony in opposition

Michael Heilman – Executive Director North Dakota Small Organized School

January 27, 2021

Chairman Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Michael Heilman. I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools (NDSOS). I represent 154-member school districts of the North Dakota Small Organized Schools. NDSOS stands in opposition to of HB 1311 as it is currently written.

NDSOS also testified in opposition to a very similar bill last week, HB 1297. With HB 1297 Representative Ben Koppelman’s key amendment addressed NDSOS’s concerns dealing with the removal of the infraction section of the bill and addressing Section 1 1-a of the bill to include school sponsored athletic and sporting events.

Although NDSOS greatly appreciated the amendments made to address athletic events on or of school sites. The same concerns exist for non-athletic events held on or off school sites. Events like school dances, banquets, speech and drama events, career and technical education competitions, graduations... it is a very expansive list. We would respectfully ask that sponsors of HB 1311 consider the addition of all school sponsored events held on or off school grounds, be included in section 1 - 1 a of HB 1311.

a. A school, ~~a~~ or any school-sponsored ~~athletic or sporting~~ event;

Thank you Chairman Klemin and member of the House Judiciary Committee. I would stand for any questions.

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**The mission of NDSOS is to provide leadership for the small/rural schools in North Dakota and to support legislation favorable to their philosophy while opposing legislation that is harmful.**