

March 15, 2021

North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to urge you to vote "DO NOT PASS" on House Bill 1298, because I believe it will have the unintended consequence of limiting the sporting opportunities of the athletes this bill purports to support and protect. The national organizations that sanction many sports in North Dakota have already created policies concerning participation by transgender athletes. If this House Bill passes as currently written, it is likely that these national organizations will withhold sanctions for events in North Dakota.

If national sporting organizations effectively leave the state, that departure will eliminate sporting opportunities for many athletes. There are many athletes that participate in recreational club sports that are organized on a national level. In my opinion, the likely deconstruction of organized athletics in North Dakota would appear to defeat the purpose of the bill.

In closing, I request that you consider the likely unintended consequences that will affect generations of athletes to come, and that you ask yourselves if this bill will possibly do more harm than good. I believe that it will harm athletics in North Dakota and again urge you to vote "DO NOT PASS" on House Bill 1298.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael and Schaff