

Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Greetings chairman Weisz and committee members, my name is Giahna Eilers, I'm a middle school student in Mandan, North Dakota and an ally to the LGBTQ+ community. In solidarity with the athletes at my school and the transgender community of North Dakota, I am testifying in opposition to house bill 1298 which would ban students from participating on sports teams that do not align with their assigned sex at birth. All student should have the chance to play any sport they want. Without a girl's football or wrestling team that is an opportunity female students wouldn't have. I personally know some girls who are on the boys wrestling team who would be disappointed to know they would not get to return to the team. Furthermore ,this bill discriminates against transgender students who want to play on the sports team that aligns with their gender identity. I encourage the committee to vote DO NOT PASS on HB 1298.

Giahna Eilers,  
Middle school student in Mandan, North Dakota