

Testimony

House Bill 1298—Relating to participation in athletic events exclusively for males or females

House of Human Services Committee

Senators Clemens, Kannianen, Myrdal; Representatives Koppelman, Meier, Paulson, Schauer, Skroch, Steiner, and Vetter

2021-01-24

Senators and Representatives:

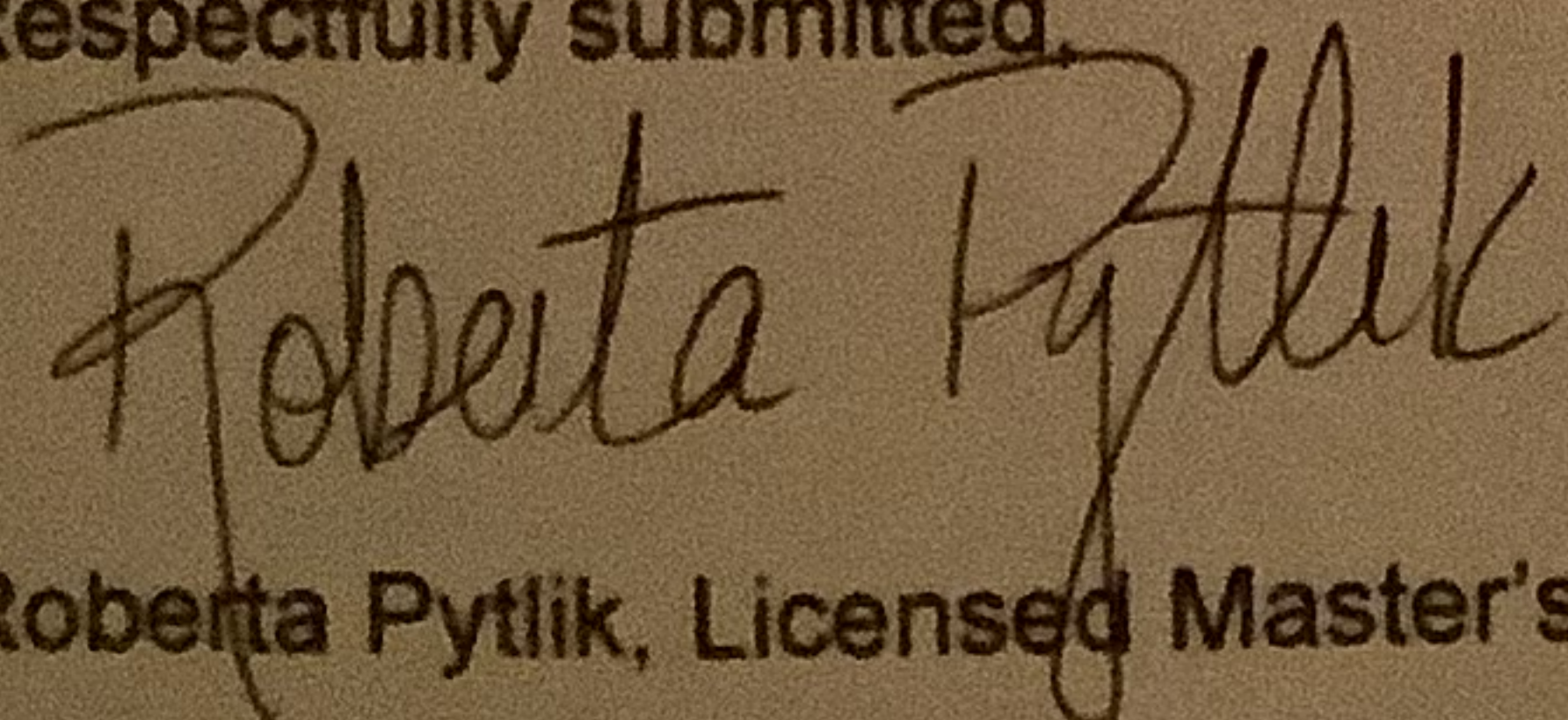
I am Roberta Pytlik of Fargo, ND, and I am a licensed addiction and professional clinical counselor. I work with adults managing all kinds of stressors and help them to find better understanding, self-awareness, and strategies to cope. Though I work primarily with adults, I have good understanding of some of the stressors that come with adolescence or raising adolescents. Thus, I am strongly opposed to this bill being put forth regarding adolescent athletes.

In addition to a number of peer-reviewed scientific studies that disprove the stance many of you take regarding the biological differences between boys and girls and potential game-related consequences of these, this bill is also untimely as we all continue to manage a global pandemic, and is unnecessary. It is my understanding that athletic organizations already have (and could write if they do not) policies and procedures in place to address managing the nuanced issues of transgender athletes' participation. It is unnecessary for legislation at the state level to dictate this and should be eliminated from this legislative session.

When statewide policies exist that harm children (and be very clear that this bill would do just that), it is difficult to undo both at your administrative level and on the personal levels of the families impacted. I have had the privilege of working with a number of individual who identify as transgender; their struggles are enough without limiting the way in which they participate in sports, or the funding that supports these organizations.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your time and consideration. If I can be of further assistance during this time of deliberation, please contact me at roberta.pytlik@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,



Roberta Pytlik, Licensed Master's Addiction and Professional Clinical Counselor