

**Testimony of Shannon Schutt
North Dakota Recreation & Park Association
To House Judiciary Committee
In Opposition to HB 1339
Monday, February 15, 2021**

Chairman Klemin and Members of the Committee, my name is Shannon Schutt, and I am the executive director of the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA). We represent more than 900 members, primarily park districts, and work to advance parks, recreation and conservation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota. We are in opposition to HB 1339.

HB 1339 removes “an athletic or sporting event,” from the definition of a public gathering and as a result individuals would be allowed to carry a firearm or dangerous weapon at park district events such as soccer games, flag football games, tennis matches, basketball tournaments, and much more. We feel this would cause additional liability for park districts and potentially put staff and participants in a dangerous situation when attending anything from little league games to major events at our facilities. Some of these events also allow alcohol onsite with use of a permit, which could increase the risk of impaired decision-making with a firearm or dangerous weapon.

NDRPA urges a do not pass recommendation on HB 1339. Thank you.