

March 15, 2021

To the ND Senators (and Representatives) considering limiting transgender athletic participation:

As a North Dakotan I stand FIRMLY AGAINST HB 1298. This bill targets the youth of North Dakota with hatred and exclusion. Why??

Passing such hateful legislation will NOT change the gender identities of these youth, it will simply tell them that some of you in the legislature think of them as freaks to be contained and controlled. Is THAT the message YOU want to send throughout the State, the Country, the world from North Dakota? Hasn't the ND legislature embarrassed us enough already?

You know that this bill won't make sports safer or fairer for any student. But it does target and exclude a group of students who already face high levels of discrimination. Transgender students experience disturbingly higher rates of bullying, rejection, and violence, and you seek to add to that? How shameful.

HB 1298 is opposed by local organizations including: Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau, Fargo Public Schools, Grand Forks Public Schools, North Dakota American Academy of Pediatrics, North Dakota Psychiatric Association, and parents and athletes of West Fargo Flyers. These are people who have dedicated their lives to families and children. I respect these organizations, don't you?

Many businesses are opposed to bills like HB 1298 that target transgender youth including: Amazon, AT&T, Microsoft, TechNet, T-Mobile, Lyft, Uber, and Verizon. Surely, each and every business organization that all of you work for would oppose such blatant discrimination. Take a stand for progress, not repression.

Most North Dakotans are better than this. Most of us support fairness and freedom. To target our transgender youth is harmful and quite frankly, ridiculous. Vote NO on HB 1298.

Thank you,

Jane Pettinger  
District 46

3633 River Drive  
Fargo, ND 58104