

Testimony from Kara L. Geiger in OPPOSITION to HB 1298

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 1298.

On the high school level, the North Dakota High School Activities Association already has a policy in place for transgender athletes. My concern with the bill in question is, Would the entity hosting an event be responsible for checking birth certificates of all athletes to ensure that they have the right genitalia or DNA for participating in a certain sport? That sounds like an undue burden on the school, not to mention a gross violation of the rights of the student athletes, most of whom are under the age of 18.

Despite what the proponents of this bill are saying, science does NOT support a gender OR a sex binary. There's no hard scientific line between male and female. It is not a simple matter of XX vs XY. In addition, certain medical conditions can cause cis-female individuals to display more masculine traits, like PCOS (which can cause excess hair growth on the face and chest). What happens when a cis-female child has naturally high testosterone? Will she be forced to prove that she's biologically female? What would that look like: blood test? Physical examination? I can tell you, if my daughter were subject to that just because someone thought she looked too masculine, I would seek legal counsel.

Remember, we're talking about high school sports here. The primary purpose is NOT athletic achievement or scholarships. The primary purpose of high school sports is to promote values of teamwork, leadership, and hard work. No student should be denied that.

I implore you to read and watch all of the testimony submitted for this bill. Many are opposed to it, including medical professionals and people who work with children, because this bill is harmful.

This bill is simply discrimination against transgender people. This bill does not aim to solve a problem, because there is no problem. No one is transitioning or pretending to transition just to get ahead in high school sports.