

**Date: July 25, 2022**

**Memo to: North Dakota High School Activities**

**Attn: Executive Director: Matt Fetch**

**cc. Superintendent of Public Instruction -Kristen Baesler**

**cc. North Dakota High School Activities State Board**

**I am writing to you with a real concern about Collin Knorr and Camrynn Knorr. It is my understanding that when the Knorrs moved to the Garrison school district their children were already well into there academic year in South Prairie and a move at that point would have been detrimental. They moved to 2980 Scenic Waters loop; Coleharbor, ND.**

**Covid-19 was a big factor in deciding the best course for the children also for school attendance 2020-2021 year. They have now built a new home and moved lock, stock, and barrel into this new home at 2979 16 W Street Northwest, Coleharbor, ND, in June 2022.**

**I was asked to come and provide supervision for Collin and Camrynn during February/ March of 2022 while their parents were gone. While staying with the kids, I drove on several occasions to sporting events. The 30+ miles between South Prairie and their new Coleharbor address were some of the most dangerous, wind-swept miles, I have ever encountered. From south of Max, North Dakota to South Prairie was extremely dangerous with blowing snow and snow squalls. I registered my concern with Margo and Steve Knorr. When they moved into the new home in June 2022, they prayerfully decided encouraging their children to make the shift to the Garrison school district was the right course to ensure the safety of the kids.**

**However, a big, unassailable road block has originated out of the North Dakota High School's rules and regulations interpretation. The NDHSAA is indicating that the very likely outcome exists where Collin and Camrynn would have to forfeit the first semester of sports in the coming year. Now in some instances (which I cannot readily imagine) this might not be such a big liability, but where my Grandson Collin is concerned it would break his spirit and his heart. He would rather risk the terrible drive then be held out of sports during his senior season this coming year. Here is an example of what kind of heart this young man has. As a junior, Collin played football with his whole heart and is an excellent athlete and he had an excellent season. In the spring, he went out for track and as a junior he started at "ground zero" building his skill set and technique for a first-time competitor in track, and managed to qualify for State Track and Field competition. Once**

again, he played his heart out to try and excel and I sat and marveled at almost all of his freezing-cold track meets.

My concern as an educator, parent, and grandparent is what is NDHSAA doing to underpin the best interest and safety of young sports' enthusiasts who simply want both the opportunity to play sports and be safe. While Camrynn would have more time because she will just be a sophomore, I implore you to reasonably allow Collin and Camrynn to play sports along with the move to Garrison School. As a senior, if Collin had to give up his fall sport of football because of a move and decisions made by caring, loving parents regarding his safety, it would break his spirit and his heart. This young man is an excellent academic student (A-average), but his whole heart is in "the love of the game of football". When this young man was a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, he had a badly broken leg and could not bear weight on his leg for many weeks. While his parents were gone on a trip for business, he came and stayed with me for a week. We watched football and he taught me what wide receivers, tight ends, cornerbacks, fullbacks, quarterbacks, line-backers, and punters are. I became an avid fan and as a grandmother I started watching and enjoying football. As a 7<sup>th</sup> grade kid with a broken leg, Collin brought tears to my eyes and joy to my heart with his already growing love of the game and clear knowledge and understanding of the game even when he could not play.

I cannot imagine that you as supporters of young people would stand in the way of Collin's safety and overall well-being by forcing his attendance at one school over another, when the closest school is much closer and would go a lot further in ensuring his safety and well-being. Please consider granting a hardship status to Collin and Camrynn so they can attend the school in their district and compete in sports. Your decision would need to be in writing to Collin because it is the only way he will know for sure that he can make the move. I, as his grandmother and longtime ND licensed educator, and sports enthusiast ask for your mercy and good faith. I do not want Collin back on that highway morning and night all

**school year. It would be a terrible thing if because of your interpretation of the rules something happened on the drive. You have the discretion to make a decision favoring a student and what is in the best interest of young people every single time. My hope is that you will. I know you will consider this carefully. Thank you so much.**

**Patsy Levang 10841 Highway 73 Watford City, ND 58854**