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I would like to thank the NDHSAA for all the work they do with tournaments and events. We do appreciate the hard work you put in so that these events can run well. It is obvious that the NDHSAA cares about high school sports in this state, but I feel that some of their policies are not beneficial to students, parents, and families.

I have seen examples of the NDHSAA bylaws negatively impact students. I saw a student from Lignite, who was technically abandoned by his family, have to seek special permission from the NDHSAA to play basketball.

I saw my daughter's classmate, who came to live with his grandmother during the "covid year" so he could attend school in person (instead of virtually where he was from) be ineligible and not able to participate in varsity sports and activities – so he didn't even try. He just gave up and withdrew into his video games.

I have seen two of my daughter's friends transfer schools for good reasons, but not good enough reasons for the NDHSAA, and lose their eligibility for a year.

**The control of the athletic activities appears to be more important than academics and the general well being of the student and their family. Athletics have been made so important by the NDHSAA that they are negatively affecting the school choice and the education of some North Dakota students.**

Then there is my story. My son wanted to take shop classes and in person college math classes his senior year, but they were not offered

at our small school. He started to look at transferring to a larger school, but the NDHSAA bylaws state that “transfer in order to obtain certain subjects” is not a legitimate reason, so he would have to give up his eligibility his senior year if he changed schools. So, to give my son academic opportunity AND to conform to the NDHSAA eligibility rules, we chose to buy a house and move our family ten miles. That’s how much effort it took to stay within the NDHSAA rules of eligibility.

**These by-laws need to look at more than just athletics, and instead consider the whole education and well being of the student. I would also like parents to be valued by the NDHSAA.** My main experience, as a parent, with the NDHSAA is this:

My son qualified for state speech in 2021, the “covid year.” When I asked Mr. Bubach of the NDHSAA if I could be there to support my son at the state speech meet, he replied that if I attended my son’s event, they would “omit that entry from the schedule”, meaning that if I showed up to support my son at state speech, then the NDHSAA would disqualify my son from his event.

**I recommend a DO PASS for House Bill 1149.**