

To Whom it May Concern about HB 1343,

My name is Aurora Zainhofsky. I am currently an undergraduate student at North Dakota State University. I went to Century High School where I participated in trapshooting. Missouri River Clay Target League (MRCTL) shaped me to be the person I am today.

In June of 2022, I was one of three recipients of the Evan Grove Scholarship. Although we did not go to the same school, Evan was a fellow trap shooter. I did not know him well, but I have come to know his parents, Eric and Jen. In memorial of their son, Eric and Jen created a scholarship fund for MRCTL participants. It is awarded to a high school senior or trade school attendee who participates in at least two seasons of North Dakota High School Clay Target League competition for any of the six Bismarck-Mandan high schools that are a part of MRCTL.

I participated in MRCTL from the spring of 2018 to the spring of 2022. I have learned many lessons that apply to trapshooting as a sport, but also life. One of the biggest lessons I have learned is the importance of supporting our family. Family in itself has many different definitions. Family can include both biological and chosen. Everyone in MRCTL is part of my chosen family. They have supported me through good and bad seasons. MRCTL has supported me and others who are part of the MRCTL family. When Evan tragically passed away, everyone in the MRCTL family rallied around the Grove's and loved on them. The support given by everyone in MRCTL is beyond describable.

When Eric and Jen created the scholarship in Evan's memory, they decided to support those who supported them. I remember going to Sunday league weeks and there being a table with a jar for donations. They had snacks and drinks available for those who donated as a small token of appreciation. In addition, the scholarship fund was able to sell ice cream treats at the North Dakota Trapshooting Association's State Tournament in July of 2022. Without the generosity of people supporting the scholarship through small events like this, the Evan Grove Scholarship would not be thriving as much as it is. Although small events are enough to keep the scholarship alive, it would not exist without large charitable donations.

HB 1343 would negatively impact the Evan Grove Scholarship. People will be less likely to donate large amounts of money because although some people donate out of kindness, others donate to obtain a tax credit. According to HB 1343, Section 1, a. the purpose of the charitable gift is to provide a scholarship, this would not be possible. It would inevitably cause the scholarship to struggle and be more difficult to support MRCTL participants.

Seeing how much effort has gone into the creation of this scholarship, it would be disheartening to see it struggle or worse yet, cease to exist. As someone who has received a scholarship that would be impacted by HB 1343, I urge you as legislators to consider all of the positive impacts scholarships have on their recipients, and more relevantly the impact donors have on the longevity of scholarships and the memories behind them.

With Regards,

Aurora Zainhofsky