

I urge you to oppose HB 1249.

This bill is directly aimed at removing transgender youth from participating in athletics.

LGBTQ Youth are more than 4 times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers (Johns et al., 2019; Johns et al., 2020). This isn't a result of the label, it's a direct outcome of being marginalized and discriminated against. This bill, and others that seek to further limit the LGBTQ+ community directly contribute to the increased risk of suicide. Do not create more spaces where transgender youth are not welcome.

The benefits of being included in a team and participating in athletics are well documented. The trans population should be able to benefit from these opportunities equally.

There are not currently many trans athletes competing. This is a bill that is incorrectly solving a problem that doesn't currently exist in North Dakota.

The ND High School Activities Association already has policies in place for these situations and creating laws on a state level for this is excessive and unnecessary.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 1249.