

1/22/23

*My name is Susan Draper and I reside in District 1, of Williston, ND I am asking that you please render a DO PASS on House Bill 1249." I am speaking on behalf of myself and my two student athletes that participate in both wrestling and swimming, where there are currently both men and women divisions. What is stopping a young man from deciding that the men division is too hard so now he wants to dominate the women division. School sports are meant to engage in meaningful competition, which grows leadership and team bonding. Transgender athletes participating the opposite sex sports could create a mass exodus of student athletes.*

Allowing transgender women to change the meaning of the women's category makes as much sense as allowing 195-pound athletes into the 120-pound weight category for wrestling, because larger athletes were subject to awful bullying and harassment. Or allowing adults to compete against children, or only permitting impoverished nations compete in the Olympics. Sport has been set up as binary with males and females, and sport needs to adapt by adding new events and classifications, rather than throwing out the meaning of the 'girls' and women's' categories. Rather than trying to squeeze transgender athletes into one-of-two categories, male or female, sport needs to adapt.

*There is a mountain of evidence that shows that, in general, male athletes are bigger, stronger, faster, possess better hand-eye coordination, and are more spatially aware than their female counterparts, all of which clearly give men the advantage. Males even have the advantage after one year of gender-affirming hormone therapy. Trans women are not women. They are males no matter how much estrogen they swallow or body parts they alter. Please do not allow subjective ideology to trump established biological facts. Please protect the hard-won sex-based rights of women and the opportunities that come from being an athlete.*

*Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and for your service to the state of North Dakota.*

*Susan Draper*