

Mariah Bates  
Williston, North Dakota  
House Bill 1249

Members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Mariah Bates and I reside in District 1. I am asking that you please render a DO PASS on House Bill 1249.

With my experience of being an avid every season athlete throughout my school years and into adulthood, I can't imagine being placed in a situation where I had to go up against a male athlete in the athletics I participated in when I was a student. I would be horrified and worried for my health and safety due to the strength differences among males and females. As an adult, I have played in summer coed league athletics and know how scary it is to be standing infield when a male comes up to bat, or to be on the net when a male is spiking a volleyball, along with many other similar situations.

The participation in athletics by school age kids, from elementary to college, has a significant impact on their growth as an individual, as a team member, as a leader, and as a healthy growing member of our country. Allowing transgender athletes to participate in male and female athletic teams would deter athletes from participating, cause a mass exodus of student athletes, and ultimately have a huge impact on the future of our students and their success as an individual.

As a parent to a young daughter with another on the way, I know that I will not allow my children to participate in athletics if they will be up against male athletes who could potentially be a threat to my children's safety and health. With that, I can't even begin to fathom the thought of my daughters being in the same locker room with a male athlete and pray they never have to experience that.

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

Mariah Bates