

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Maura Ferguson and I am writing this testimony as a resident of ND and independently from my employer. My views do not represent my employer. I write to you today as a community organizer, a mother, and as someone who cares very much about the LGBTQIA+ community.

HB 1249 is a proposed bill that is rooted in fear. We need not be afraid of trans children, in fact, quite the opposite. We should do all we can to support them and encourage them to follow their dreams. Participation in athletics can be a protective factor for the mental health of trans kids. Why would we do anything to get in the way of that? There is no legitimate reason for the ND Legislature to get involved in sports at this level. This bill is wrong and I urge you to vote Do Not Pass.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to ALL North Dakotans.

Maura Ferguson, LMSW
Grand Forks