

Opposition to HB 1249

I stand in opposition to HB 1249, and urge a Do Not Pass.

The North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA), after much deliberation and careful consideration, has created guidance governing the participation of trans athletes in high school sports. Why does the legislature feel a need to meddle in a process that has been carefully thought out by those actually involved in athletic programs.

The value of team sports is the sense of belonging, of working together, of celebrating victories and defeats together. North Dakota High School Athletics are not a professional million-dollar industry. The presence of a trans female athlete is not going to ruin someone else's chance at a career. It is a way to teach youth growth and maturity for all participants. Why should trans athletes be denied the ability to participate and belong to such an important formative team experience?

This proposed bill is terribly discriminatory against a group that is already prone to higher rates of depression and suicide, as they struggle to find their way in life. This bill needs to be defeated, especially in a state that claims to be pro-freedom, and pro right-to-life. Trans people deserve the same freedoms and right to a healthy living environment.

Therefore I stand in opposition and urge a Do Not Pass to HB 1249.

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