



**Kayla Schmidt – Interim Executive Director, North Dakota Women’s Network
Opposition – HB1249
North Dakota House Human Services Committee**

January 24, 2023

Dear Chair Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Kayla Schmidt and I am the Interim Executive Director of the North Dakota Women’s Network. We are a statewide organization with members and advocates located across North Dakota. I am providing testimony in opposition to HB 1249.

Within our mission to improve the lives of women, we have three areas of focus: leadership, opportunity, and equality. HB 1249 is a direct conflict to the positive outcomes we work to create through those areas of focus.

HB 1249 removes opportunities, including leadership opportunities from transgender youth in our state in relationship to sports participation.

HB 1249 uses the guise of women’s rights to create an environment of discrimination and exclusion in North Dakota sports and athletic teams.

Similar attempts to pass discriminatory legislation in North Dakota has strongly been opposed by community leaders, athletic organizations, medical experts, social workers, parents, educators, students, faith leaders, representatives of local Chambers of Commerce and tourism organizations, and the LGBTQ+ community.

The North Dakota Women’s Network stands with these groups and asks that HB1249 receives a Do Not Pass Recommendation.

Thank you.

Kayla Schmidt
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