

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 1489 is a proposed bill that is rooted in fear. We need not be afraid of trans athletes, 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 students. Trans students should be able to play on teams that align with their gender identity. They should be able to use locker rooms and bathrooms that align with their gender identity.

This bill is wrong, needless, 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