

January 23, 2023

Chairperson Lee and Committee Members,

I strongly urge a Do NOT Pass on HB 1489. This proposed bill is a step backwards in higher education safety and a violation of federal law.

First, 15.1-41-03 would be detrimental to women and a step away from women's equality. This section could easily be used to turn away any complaint that an institution is providing subpar interscholastic or intramural athletic teams or sports for women. This section could be used to shut down conversations in higher education and athletic departments about how women's sports could be improved. By barring investigations, it could also be used to hide inappropriate and detrimental behavior towards female students.

Furthermore, this bill would prevent individuals who are born with ambiguous sex organs, atypical chromosomes, or hormone imbalances from participating in the most appropriate way for them. Enforcing this bill would also require students to prove the status of their sexual organs or chromosomal makeup to higher education institutions, which would be a violation of an individual's privacy and against federal law which gives the legal right to health information privacy at age 12.

Do NOT Pass HB 1489.

Sincerely,  
Gretchen Deeg  
Bismarck, ND