

North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL 600 EAST BOULEVARD BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Paul J. Thomas District 6 P.O. Box 162 Velva, ND 58790-0162 paulthomas@ndlegis.gov COMMITTEES: Industry, Business and Labor Agriculture, Chairman

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Chair Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee

I am Representative Paul Thomas, representing District 6 in North Central North Dakota. HB 1149 directs legislative management to consider studying the impact of the North Dakota high school association (NDHSAA) on students. The purpose of the study will be to review the makeup of the board of the association, review bylaws and policies including eligibility and transfer rules, and the role of the state as it relates to the association's performance of a quasi-governmental function.

The need for this study was brought forward to me by constituents within my district. After consulting with them, and then visiting with the NDHSAA executive director, I found out how little I knew about the NDHSAA. I believe the sporting activities that the NDHSAA oversees are important to the member schools, the student athletes, and the communities we live in. Recognizing the important role of High School athletics in our state, I believe it is important that members of the Legislature understand the workings of the NDHSAA and how the states relationship with the organization is best situated.

Chair Elkin and members of the committee I ask for your support of HB 1149.