

Dear Chair Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

I am submitting testimony **in opposition to House Bill 1488**. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.

This bill will create an unnecessary burden on our school districts, who already have policies in place to govern their clubs and extracurricular activities.

I feel this bill would also harmfully affect our LGBTQ+ youth, who benefit greatly from participating in GSAs (Gender Sexuality Alliances) at school. GSAs show improved grades, less absenteeism, and protect against suicide for these youth. By requiring parent approval, it is likely many LGBTQ+ youth will not be able to benefit from these groups, especially if they come from abusive and/or unsupportive or unsafe homes.

Please consider the harm this bill could do to our LGBTQ+ youth in North Dakota.

Thank you,
Derek Harnish