

Testimony  
Senate Bill 2229  
Senate Education Committee  
Senator Elkins, Chairman  
January 18, 2023

Chairman Elkin and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Alaina Schmit. I am 11 years old, I live in Bismarck and I am a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Horizon Middle School. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 2229 because I think that curling should be North Dakota's state sport. There are many states that have a state sport but North Dakota does not.

I think curling should be the state sport of North Dakota because it has a lot of history here in the state. For example, the first curling club in North Dakota was founded in Drayton in 1901 over a century ago! Curling is a good sport for hanging out with people and it's good exercise in the winter.

Another great thing about curling is that it is a lifetime sport. Everyone can play young and old, a large number of people, a few people, and a whole family can play! (if they know the rules of course) I started curling at age 6 and I love it. My older brother also curled and I spent lots of time in curling clubs across the state.

North Dakota's 11 clubs are the largest concentration in the region and the current 2022 U18 women's curling champions are from North Dakota. Last weekend our curling club in Bismarck had 9 members representing the state at the U18 National Championship. Even North Dakota State University's curling team held a title when they were the 2019 College Curling Champions.

No other state has curling as their state sport and I think North Dakota should make curling its official state sport. North Dakota has the opportunity to be unique and original by passing this bill.

I understand many people like football and hockey in North Dakota. So if the committee feels necessary to make changes to the bill maybe you could consider curling as North Dakota's official winter sport or official family sport, lifetime sport, or the official non-contact sport?

Thank you for your consideration and I am happy to answer any questions.