

Senate Judiciary Committee
March 27th, 2023
HB 1249 - Testimony in Opposition

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my name is Whitney Oxendahl, and I am writing in opposition to House Bill 1249.

I grew up in western North Dakota playing any sport I could. You name it, I played it at one time or another. For Class B volleyball, my high school team made it to regionals and then state. I played because it was fun and there was not much else to do where I lived. I enjoyed meeting players from other teams, being a part of something, and exercising my body.

Transgender high school girls should be able to play high school sports with their friends. It's supposed to be fun and team-building. If my daughter grows up and one of her friends is transgender, I want them to be able to play on teams together. We should not exclude them.

Discussion around this bill has focused on women's sports, and as a former female high school athlete in North Dakota, I don't understand why this is being made an issue in the North Dakota Legislature. In 2021, a similar bill was passed by both chambers and we have not seen a rise in trans athletes trying to play sports. This is not an issue here.

I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass. Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.