

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

Dear Chair Larson and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on HB 1249.

1. North Dakota’s State Sport is Curling, which follows [USA Curling Guidelines](#) and allows trans athletes to play as how they identify.
 - a. This policy would forfeit the ability for trans people to play as their truest self in our state's greatest sport.
2. The World Athletic Council allows female participants (who are trans) that have not gone through androgenized puberty in a [policy update](#).
3. There is strong legal protection within schools to prevent discrimination according to [previously submitted testimony](#).
4. There is already an [incredibly restrictive policy](#) making it virtually impossible for any trans girl to compete.

This bill may not matter in our state. If kids can’t access hormone therapy (HB 1254), they can’t play sports. If schools don’t have expressed policies on gender expression (SB 2231), they can’t play sports. If kids have no support in school or at home, they’re not playing sports. This bill is perhaps beating a dead horse.

If we lived in a better world, this bill would matter, because trans kids in middle school or highschool aren’t typically megastar athletes. Kids play sports to make friends or be with friends. Sports have a huge impact on a number of factors associated with mental health and school investment. Trans kids would lose out on all of this, if they ever had the opportunity for it in the first place!

Suggested Amendment to Help Cisgender Athletes

The only problem with this bill is it doesn’t do anything to help cisgender women’s sports right now. So, I’d like to propose an amendment to add a \$1,000,000 expenditure. This would be used to give every single public school district a \$5,000 scholarship fund to give to one cisgender female athlete, split how the school sees fit, or used for cisgender female sports teams.

I would recommend “Do Pass” on a bill with Fiscal Note added. Let’s support cisgender women in sports and mean it.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,
Faye Seidler