

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Shaunna Upgren and I reside in District 8. I am asking that you please render a DO PASS on HB 1249.

I am the mother of two female high school athletes. I fear that females will lose their drive to compete in sports if they know their sport can be dominated by a biological male. Even after gender-affirming hormone therapy, biological males still have the physical advantage. Hormones don't change a person's size or height. In an interview with WebMD, sports physicist Joanna Harper, who has advised the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and other sporting bodies on gender and sports said, "There's absolutely no question in my mind that trans women will maintain strength advantages over cis women, even after hormone therapy. That's based on my clinical experience, rather than published data, but I would say there's zero doubt in my mind."

In addition to the obvious problem of physical advantage that biological males have over biological females in sports, there is another major issue of locker room usage and dressing and undressing in the locker rooms. A female made to undress in a locker room in front of a biological male teammate is incomprehensible and humiliating. A biological male undressing in front of a female teammate is inappropriate and unwanted exposure for the young ladies. Locker rooms are not made for private dressing and undressing. More and more testimonies of girls feeling uncomfortable in dressing rooms where this is happening are coming to the forefront.

We cannot let this happen in North Dakota. Please protect girls sports. Please protect our girls drive to succeed. Please protect our girls and their right to privacy.

Sincerely,
Shaunna Upgren

<https://www.webmd.com/fitness-exercise/news/20210715/do-trans-women-athletes-have-advantages>