



1 Testimony Regarding House Bill 1251

2 Chairman Heinert and members of the committee, I'm representing NDCEL, and your school  
3 administrators and specifically one of my groups NDIAAA which is my athletic directors, and  
4 I'm also giving you perspective as a former varsity girls basketball coach. I respectfully request  
5 an amendment to the bill that would remove New Year's Day as a prohibited date for school  
6 extracurricular activities.

7 **Background and Rationale:**

8 Under the current provisions of this bill, schools are prohibited from holding extracurricular  
9 activities on designated family days, including New Year's Day. However, the timing of school  
10 events, particularly in athletics, often requires preparation and accountability in the days leading  
11 up to scheduled competitions. The existing restriction creates challenges for coaches and student-  
12 athletes who must prepare for events occurring immediately after this holiday.

13 **More conversation – change of thought**

14 After further conversation, and originally thinking that New Year's would be the only issue, I had  
15 a number of administrators bring lots of issues to my attention that I hadn't even thought of...it  
16 has brought us to the place that with the best of intentions – unfortunately this is a bad bill and  
17 these decisions need to remain local and not be governed in code.

18 Amazing experiences that ND schools have been able to do would come to a screeching halt – It's  
19 more than just about basketball practice.

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- 21 • North Dakota schools have marched in the Rose Bowl on New Years Day – that would  
22 be done.
  - 23 • North Dakota school bands march in 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parades – this is a LONG standing  
24 Mandan tradition. Done
  - 25 • Some schools have had opportunities to have students raise money to participate in  
26 events -band, choir, foreign language, drama, etc to participate in out of state events  
27 that sometimes have travel over those days – would those opportunities end?
  - 28 • State track could have issues if there are make-up days or is the school prohibited  
29 from allowing the team to stay overnight and travel next day so it isn't unreasonably  
late?

30 We have to trust local school boards to manage this decision and their employees and set  
31 guidelines, for parents to understand they can make the decision for their student to  
32 participate. While well intentioned – this is not a bill that needs a no vote.

*NDCEL is the strongest unifying voice representing and supporting administrators and educational leaders in pursuit of quality education  
for all students in North Dakota.*

*Executive Director: Aimee Copas-----Government Lead and Special Projects: Kevin Hoherz*