

House Education Committee
Testimony on House Bill 1491

I strongly oppose House Bill 1491, and I encourage all committee members to kill this bill in your committee.

I am a retired teacher, coach, high school principal, middle school principal, and athletic director. I spent 32 years in education. I served on the North Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors from 2004-2008 and the National Federation of High Schools Board of Directors from 2005-2009. I am still very much involved in high school athletics as I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

With my background, I feel very strongly that the passage of this legislation would do the following:

- Devastate the purpose of Educational Based Athletics. High School activities are an extension of the classroom. Students learn so much when they are part of a team. **Adversity** is a life lesson we need to learn how to deal with. I see this bill as a way for students to move from one school district to another on a whim. They may not agree with playing time or a coach or administrative decision, so they move on to another school district. We have rules for a reason and this rule has worked well throughout my education career. There have been some questions, but when that happens, we look at changes, but we still have a high standard of attendance.
- Encourage recruitment between school district coaches, parents, and/or booster members.
- Encourage students, through their parents, to move from one district to another if things don't go their way. If they aren't happy at their next school, they could move to another. We will develop a society of self-serving individuals.
- Allow 'very little' verification of residency.
- This will overall hurt the "team concept" of high school activities. If students can just move into a program, they most likely will displace students that are loyal to their district. We would be getting dangerously close to why I dislike the National Basketball Association & allow a couple players to "plan to move together to a certain school to win a championship". This could happen if we have no rules.

Based on my experience, I think the passage of House Bill 1491 would ruin North Dakota high school activities as we know and LOVE them today. I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE a NO PASS RECOMMENDATION from the House Education Committee.

Thank you for what you do and caring for ALL North Dakota students.

Sincerely,
Lorell Jungling, CMAA