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House Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1491, which would remove the ability of the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) to regulate athletics-driven student transfers between member schools.

The NDHSAA transfer guidelines are essential in managing student transfers fairly and equitably for both students and member schools. As an organization committed to education-based activities, NDHSAA ensures that athletics remain an extension of the classroom, promoting teamwork, integrity, and personal growth over competitive advantages. These regulations help prevent recruitment and maintain a level playing field so that high school sports remain focused on development rather than athletic-driven transfers.

HB 1491 presumes that no recruitment or undue influence occurs, but by stripping NDHSAA of its oversight, it opens the door for competitive imbalances, program instability, and an erosion of the core educational values that high school activities are meant to uphold. If passed, this bill could allow schools to build athletic programs through student transfers, creating unfair advantages and diminishing opportunities for student-athletes in smaller or less resourced schools.

I urge you to oppose HB 1491 and protect the fairness, integrity, and educational mission of high school athletics in North Dakota.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dave Zittleman  
Director of Student Activities  
Bismarck Public Schools