



P.O. Box 769, Larimore, ND 58251-0769

LARIMORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY • 700 CLARK AVE. • PHONE: 701-343-2249 • FAX: 701-343-2463
HIGH SCHOOL • 300 BOOTH AVE. • PHONE: 701-343-2366 • FAX: 701-343-2908

District #44

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide information regarding HB 1491. I am Patti Aanenson, Athletic Director at Larimore High School and Vice President of the NDHSAA Board of Directors. I am testifying to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1491. As a high school athletic director, I am deeply committed to the educational and personal development of our students. I am concerned that this bill, which seeks to eliminate the current student transfer regulations found in the NDHSAA Constitution and By Laws, is a solution in search of a problem, which if passed will actually create many more problems than currently exist.

Extracurricular activities, including athletics, music, and clubs, rely on team cohesion and long-term development. Allowing students to transfer at will destabilizes these programs, as teams and organizations require commitment to build skills, chemistry, and long-term success. Frequent transfers could lead to a system where students move based on athletic or extracurricular advantages rather than genuine academic or personal needs.

Unrestricted transfers open the door for the recruitment of students based on athletic or extracurricular abilities, creating an uneven playing field. Schools with more resources or stronger programs could attract top talent, leading to competitive imbalances and diminishing the value of fair competition. This is particularly concerning in high school athletics, where recruitment-like behaviors could overshadow the educational purpose of extracurricular activities.

We work on the philosophy of education based extracurriculars and this bill would remove the “education” as the basis for our extracurriculars.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Patti Aanenson

Patti Aanenson
Larimore High School and NDHSAA

The Larimore School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Steve Swiontek
steve.swiontek@k12.nd.us

High School Principal

Mr. Kal Triplett
kal.triplett@k12.nd.us

Elementary Principal

Mrs. Kylie Swanson
kylie.swanson@k12.nd.us