South Prairie Public School

South Prairie Royals

100-177th Ave SW, Minot ND 58701
Phone: (701) 722-3537
Fax: (701) 722-3280
www.south-priaire.k12.nd.us

Administration
Wayne Stanley, Superintendent
Darwin Routledge, HS Principal
Gabe Rauschenberger, JR HS Principal
Tanna Neshem, Elem Principal

North Dakota Legislative House Members
State Capitol
600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

Subject: Opposition to House Bill 1491

Dear Members of the North Dakota House of Representatives,

I write to you today as the superintendent of South Prairie Schools, urging you to oppose House Bill 1491. This proposed legislation is an unnecessary and harmful overreach into the governance of high school athletics in North Dakota. The North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) exists to serve its member schools, and decisions regarding transfer policies should remain within its jurisdiction—not be dictated by legislative action.

HB 1491's attempt to create an unlimited transfer rule will ultimately harm student participation in extracurricular activities. Rather than promoting fair competition and community engagement, this bill would open the door to recruitment, instability, and diminished opportunities for student-athletes in smaller districts like ours. High school sports should foster teamwork, sportsmanship, and growth—not be subjected to a free-agency model that prioritizes movement over commitment.

Moreover, this bill sets a dangerous precedent. If the legislature begins micromanaging NDHSAA policies, what is next? A bill dictating which seats students can sit in on the bus ride home? Government intervention at this level is not only unnecessary but also counterproductive to the very goals of high school athletics.

Our schools, our communities, and our students deserve better. I strongly urge you to reject HB 1491 and allow the NDHSAA to continue governing high school athletics as it has successfully done for decades. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wayne Stanley
Superintendent, South Prairie Schools