



House Bill 1491
Testimony of Brett M. Mitchell
House Education Committee
February 11, 2025

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1491, which seeks to undermine the authority of the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA). For 116 years, the NDHSAA has successfully governed and supported educational-based athletics, ensuring competitive balance, fair play, and the best possible experience for student-athletes across our state.

The NDHSAA's policies are developed with careful consideration, professional expertise, and a deep understanding of high school athletics. While no system is without its challenges, the current framework has proven to be the most effective way to uphold the integrity of competition and provide equitable opportunities for all schools and student-athletes. Stripping the NDHSAA of its governing power in favor of legislative intervention risks disrupting a system that has been refined over decades by those who work directly with our schools and communities.

House Bill 1491 would set a dangerous precedent, allowing state government to interfere with decisions that should be guided by experience, expertise, and the best interests of student-athletes. While it is always important to review and improve policies, dismantling a proven system in favor of legislative oversight is not the solution.

I urge you to oppose House Bill 1491 and allow the NDHSAA to continue its vital role in promoting fair and competitive athletics in North Dakota. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brett Mitchell
Activities Director
Legacy High School

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