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Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1491. My name is Andrew Jordan, Superintendent of Wilton Public Schools and President of the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA). I am submitting this testimony to express my firm opposition to HB 1491.

Our current regulations governing student transfers exist for a good reason—to maintain the integrity, fairness, and educational focus of high school activities. HB 1491 seeks to dismantle these guidelines, a move that could do more harm than good. The proposed changes may appear to solve a problem, but they would instead create significant instability in our schools and extracurricular programs.

Participation in activities such as athletics, music, and other clubs is not just about competition. These programs foster teamwork, discipline, and growth over time. If students are allowed to transfer schools freely without restriction, it will disrupt team-building efforts and undercut the structure necessary for sustained development. Programs that rely on years of trust and commitment will suffer, negatively impacting both individual students and the organizations they belong to.

Moreover, without transfer rules in place, schools could be pressured into practices resembling recruitment, where students are lured by athletic or extracurricular opportunities rather than academic needs. This would inevitably lead to competitive disparities across schools. Smaller districts or those with fewer resources could struggle to retain students, creating an uneven playing field and diluting the core educational purpose of high school activities.

Education-based extracurriculars are built on a foundation of fairness, opportunity, and personal growth. HB 1491 threatens to erode that foundation by encouraging decisions that prioritize short-term gains over long-term educational development. We must safeguard the systems that have served our students and schools so well.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. I appreciate your time and attention.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Jordan  
Superintendent, Wilton Public Schools  
President, North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA)

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**School Board**

Jessica Oswald, President  
Kylee Schuh, Vice-President  
Jason Gregoryk  
Misty Schafer  
Troy Speten

**Administration**

Andrew Jordan, Superintendent  
Macy Wood, Elementary Principal  
Cori Hilzendeger, Secondary Principal  
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