

BEULAH HIGH SCHOOL

Activities Department

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Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the activities department on Beulah Public Schools. The purpose of my letter is to share our opposition to HB 1491.

High school extra- and co-curricular activities are supposed to be education-based. As such, the students who compete for a school in sports and other activities, such as music, speech, debate, drama, should do it on an even playing field. I fear that HB 1491 will eliminate much of that as it opens the field for recruitment and open transfer without any regard for the educational process of which all students are enrolled in school for. It feels to me that the lines of education-based activities and student-athletes have become quite blurred if we are only worried about whether a student may transfer multiple times and have immediate eligibility.

The current transfer rules administered by the NDHSAA work. Students who meet any of the transfer criteria in the current NDHSAA by-laws are allowed transfer and eligibility. A survey administered by the NDHSAA last spring showed greater than 90% of member schools saw no need to change the current by-laws regarding transfer and eligibility. If more than 90% of our districts don't feel a change is needed, I see no reason why HB 1491 would need to be voted on.

I would ask that as you proceed in your hearing today that you consider what will most likely be devastating ramifications to the current state of high school activities in North Dakota if this bill were to reach the House floor with a "do pass" recommendation.

Sincerely,



Jason Simpfenderfer
Beulah High School Activities Director