



# Grand Forks Central High School

*"Home of the Knights"*

*Rich in Tradition, Focused on the Future*



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Mr. Jon Strandell, Principal  
Dr. Gabe Dahl, Associate Principal  
Mr. Mike Wilber, Associate Principal  
Mr. Tony Bina, Athletic Director

TO: House Education Committee  
FR: Tony Bina  
RE: Opposition to HB 1491  
February 11, 2025

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1491, which proposes significant changes to the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) transfer rules. While I understand the intent to provide families with more flexibility, this bill would have detrimental consequences for high school athletics, student-athletes, and the overall integrity of competition in our state.

One of the most concerning aspects of HB 1491 is the elimination of recruitment and undue influence rules and penalties. These regulations exist to maintain fairness and prevent schools from actively recruiting athletes, which could lead to an unfair concentration of talent in certain programs. Without these safeguards, high school sports could become dominated by a select few schools, stripping away the community-based spirit that makes high school athletics special.

Additionally, allowing immediate varsity eligibility with nothing more than a rental agreement invites potential abuse of the system. The current requirement for a legitimate, full-family move ensures that transfers occur for genuine personal or educational reasons, rather than purely athletic motives. Removing this requirement undermines the integrity of competition and allows for a form of free agency that is inappropriate at the high school level, similar to the college sports and the transfer portal.

The absence of any restrictions on the number of transfers further destabilizes both athletic teams and student-athletes. Unrestricted movement creates an environment where students may transfer multiple times for purely athletic reasons, leading to instability in their academic and social lives. Stability is a crucial component of personal development, and HB 1491 jeopardizes that by treating high school sports as a transactional system rather than a formative experience.

Furthermore, this bill would have a disproportionately negative impact on smaller schools and rural programs, which may struggle to retain talent when larger or more successful schools are able to attract top athletes freely. This could lead to a decline in participation and competitive balance, ultimately weakening high school sports across the state.

I urge you to consider the broader implications of HB 1491 and oppose this bill to protect the integrity, fairness, and educational value of high school athletics in North Dakota. I appreciate your time and consideration on this important matter and welcome any further discussion on the subject.

Sincerely,  
Tony Bina  
Athletic Director  
Grand Forks Central High School  
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