

HB 1491 Testimony of Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille

In Opposition of HB 1491

Good Afternoon Chair Heinert and Education committee. My name is Representative Lisa Finley-DeVille. I represent all of Ft Berthold Reservation that includes the MHA nation. I am writing in opposition of HB 1491 relating to student eligibility for high school sports and activities.

HB 1491 poses a serious threat to the integrity and educational value of high school athletics within our state.

The North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) is a respected organization composed of member schools across the state, governed by elected boards. These boards have long been instrumental in guiding and regulating high school activities, ensuring a fair and consistent framework for student athletics. By setting uniform rules, the NDHSAA promotes equality and integrity in competitions, thereby allowing every student-athlete an opportunity to thrive under the same standards.

The proposed House Bill 1491 threatens to disrupt this well established system. This bill is irresponsible and unnecessary, as it undermines the authority and expertise of local schools and the NDHSAA in creating and enforcing rules that maintain the integrity of high school sports.

In urge a Do Not Pass on HB 1491. Thank you for your time and consideration.