

2/11/2025

Dear Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee

I am writing to express my opposition of HB 1491.

I am a retired educator who spent more than 40 years in the classroom. I cannot think of anything more disruptive to students' academic education than moving between schools whether at the beginning of a year or in the middle. Our primary concern should always be for our students' education before we are concerned with their activity participation. That being said, I oppose the bill primarily for the disruption it is to the education of a student as they move from district to district or school to school within an academic year. There is always loss of learning when this happens, and this should not be encouraged by legislation.

As a co-curricular coach of Student Congress and Speech (and previously debate), I oppose this bill because of the effect it has on the continuity of the team, the building of skills, and the impact to the community. The students on a team are taught teamwork, cohesiveness, grit, and skills. This bill takes away our ability to count on the students being invested in each other's progress as well as their own. Knowing that a teammate may choose to abandon the team when things aren't going their way makes students not trust in the team and hinders teambuilding and team cohesion. It is vital to students to have stability in order to progress together.

In addition, the community rallies around teams in their community. Win or lose, they are the hometown kids. If this bill goes into effect, the community will not know who to support and may feel betrayed when one of their own chooses to transfer to a different school just to win.

Please put our students first and not the goal of competitive success. Students need a stable and consistent education. Unfortunately, this bill is antithetical to that goal.

Gayle Hyde

Fargo South Student Congress and Speech Coach

Former Debate Coach

Retired Teacher