

House Education Committee,

I strongly oppose HB 1491, which would strip the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) of its ability to regulate athletics-driven student transfers between member schools. This bill threatens the fairness and integrity of high school sports by removing essential safeguards that ensure an equitable playing field for all student-athletes.

The NDHSAA's transfer guidelines are crucial for maintaining fairness in high school athletics. As an organization dedicated to education-based activities, the NDHSAA ensures that sports serve as an extension of the classroom, emphasizing teamwork, integrity, and personal growth over competitive advantage. These regulations help prevent recruiting and ensure that athletic programs remain focused on development rather than on assembling teams based on transfers.

HB 1491 operates under the assumption that recruitment and undue influence do not exist. However, by eliminating NDHSAA oversight, it creates opportunities for competitive imbalances, program instability, and a departure from the educational values that high school activities are meant to uphold.

Ultimately, HB 1491 undermines the purpose of high school athletics, which should prioritize student development over competition-driven transfers. Maintaining NDHSAA's authority over transfer regulations is essential to preserving the integrity of high school sports and ensuring fair opportunities for all student-athletes. For these reasons, I urge strong opposition to HB 1491.

Thank you,

Guy Fridley
Activities Director
Dickinson Public Schools





Be Mighty

