

As a resident of the State of North Dakota I am Opposed to the legislation proposed in House Bill 1298.

This legislation is Transphobic.

Transphobia is described as having or showing a dislike of or prejudice against transsexual or transgender people.

It is of my opinion that legislation should be used to increase the quality of life for all people. This legislation is not doing that. I do not believe that it is in the best interest of all people to exclude anyone from competition based on their sex. The idea that any sex is superior or incapable of competing equally is folly. People have always defied limits and naysayers, to prove that beyond a doubt there is no definitive answer to perceived normalcy. Men have become iconic women's clothing fashion designers and women have beaten men to become state wrestling champions. Ideas of sex and gender are evolving. One cannot limit their ideas simply to the past traditions and values. The future is evolving, enlightening and encouraging. When someone says a person can not do something it is only an invitation to be proven wrong. Anytime we exclude a human being we are closing doors to possibilities that person could achieve. There are exceptional humans doing exceptional things regardless of hurdles or handicaps. It is our job as a society to be open and to encourage those exceptional humans to succeed further to help create an exceptional world. Achievements and successes are what progress society regardless of who is doing it. Because it is in our best interest to all succeed in progress.

I believe this particular piece of legislation is written against our common interests of betterment. I believe it goes against federal rights Title IX law which states "No person in the United States shall, based on sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Sports are supposed to be fun right? Its not sunshine, rainbows, winners and losers. Sure there's the agony of defeat and thrill of victory but...
Sometimes its just about being able to be seen on the field. A few minutes of glory.
Just let the kids play.

Charles Lee
a former North Dakotan high school wrestler.