

**Testimony of Shannon Schutt
North Dakota Recreation & Park Association
To Senate Judiciary Committee
In Opposition to HB 1297
Monday, April 5, 2021**

Chairwoman Larson and Members of the Committee, my name is Shannon Schutt, and I am the executive director of the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA). We represent more than 900 members, primarily park districts, and work to advance parks, recreation and conservation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota. We are in opposition to HB 1297.

HB 1297 removes “sporting and athletic events” from the defined list of locations where firearms and dangerous weapons are prohibited. As a result, individuals would be allowed to carry a firearm or dangerous weapon at park district events such as soccer games, flag football games, tennis matches, softball tournaments, and much more. We feel this would cause additional liability for park districts and potentially put staff and participants in a dangerous situation when attending anything from little league games to major events at our facilities. Some of these events also allow alcohol onsite with use of a permit, which could increase the risk of impaired decision-making with a firearm or dangerous weapon.

NDRPA urges a do not pass recommendation on HB 1297. Thank you.