

To Whom It May Concern:

HB 1298 cannot pass. It will end youth sports in ND and force many people to move so their children can have a life with sports and activities. There are many proven studies showing that children in sports get better grades, show compassion and sportsmanship, lesser instances of depression, better physical health, and less obesity. This bill will potentially end all of that.

There are already governing bodies in place that have considered the issue so this bill is completely unneeded. These bodies require policies in writing for those organizations. If they take the inclusion policies out, then the national body will not recognize the club/team as a member, hurting our children. The kids will not be allowed to participate in sports at no fault of their own and be punished.

The amount of tourism dollars brought in by hosting large events equates to the MILLIONS. This bill will effectively put an end to that. Tourism is our third biggest industry in ND. We really do not have much to draw people in, let's be honest. This will effectively kill any tourism and would be a detriment to our economy. This bill would also allow organizations from providing financial assistance throughout the community, which puts those dollars back in our state.

North Carolina passed a bathroom bill (A BATHROOM BILL) and they LOST 3.56 BILLION. If you completely take out youth sports, the damage would be irreversible. The NCAA also banned NC from hosting any championships because of that bill. There are student athletes calling on the NCAA at this moment to ban any states with youth sports transgender bills such as this one from hosting events.

Since most facilities are publicly owned, this would leave large sports complexes sitting EMPTY. There would be no point in having them as they would be left to be completely useless.

If this bill passes, it would annihilate the tourism in ND, the mental and physical health of our youth, and handicap our economy beyond repair. Please think of this when voting.

Veronica Webb, Fargo, ND