

Dear All North Dakota State Senate Members,

My name is Jessica Domitrovich and I am writing to you today as a parent to two girls (11 and 8) in various sports in West Fargo. I implore you to strike down House Bill 1298 as it will have detrimental effects on not only our youth, our sports clubs and teams, but also our communities and state financially. I was a 3-sport athlete through high school and played college softball so I understand trying to protect female athletes but this bill is NOT needed. The impact that sports had on my life as a child but also now as a mother have stayed with me. Not only the health benefits of being in shape, knowing how to properly fuel my body to perform how I wanted it to, and keeping me active to prevent childhood obesity. Sports also had many other benefits from being a part of a team and working together towards one goal, to overcoming hardships and pushing through to meet your goals, to teaching me to work hard in school to maintain high grades to be able to participate and be able to attend college. As a small business owner, I use many of the skills I learned from playing youth sports still today and encourage my two girls to also find a sport or sports they love for the same benefits. As a spouse of a North Dakota Guardsman, my husband and I both use our time in youth sports every day to do our jobs, to lead our organizations, to run the various non-profit Boards we are on and so much more.

With all of that said, this bill is NOT needed. The governing bodies of every single sport in the world have already considered this issue and they ALL already have policies in place. This HB will have detrimental effects on all of our youth, not just female athletes, not just one single sport, not just one age. If this bill passes, our youth will not be able to participate in any youth sports because there will be no facilities for practice, competition, or hosting events for fundraisers that also drive additional millions of dollars into our communities each year. Many youth organizations, will risk their sanctioning from the national governing bodies (again, that already have policies in place pertaining to transgender athletes) which means we can no longer host events, can no longer compete in any event sanctioned by these governing bodies (which is every swim meet the West Fargo Flyers currently have or attend). To narrow it down, our youth in North Dakota will lose their opportunity to participate in sports.

I have not even hit on the financial impact to not only the communities in North Dakota but to the clubs or teams of each sport. The hospitality and tourism industry is North Dakota's third largest industry. Without the various sports bringing in big tournaments like the Fargo Youth Hockey Association tournaments bringing in \$2.4 million every hockey season, or USA Wrestling no longer hosting their tournament in North Dakota and that loss of \$2 million into the local economy, or USA Swimming events that are now being held on a more frequent basis after we have worked so hard to put on quality national events at the Hulbert Aquatic Center that bring in \$150,000-\$200,000 for EACH event. The financial impact could be devastating to not only the sports that host these large events to keep the teams/clubs afloat but also to every single tax payer that would now have to make up the income shortfall for the facilities not being used.

I have heard there are potential amendments to HB 1298 that are being considered. These also have serious impacts to each sports finances and the communities. If clubs/teams that are

currently receiving a discount for renting park district facilities, will no longer be allowed under the wording in lines 13-16 of the amendment.

Overall, not only will youth sports cease to exist due to all the issue identified above, the state of North Dakota will be negatively impacted because more progressive states will refuse to send their teams to our state due to this law. I implore you on behalf of my children and all children in the State of North Dakota to not amend this awful law but to completely vote against it and remove it – strike it down.

Sincerely,
Jessica Domitrovich

3634 Hidden Circle
West Fargo, ND 58078