

Kristie Wolff – Executive Director, North Dakota Women's Network Opposition HB 1298 North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee

March 16, 2021

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. My name is Kristie Wolff and I am the Executive Director of the North Dakota Women's Network.

North Dakota Women's Network is a statewide organization with members and advocates from every corner of the state. I am testifying today in opposition to HB 1298.

Within our mission to improve the lives of women, we have three areas of focus; leadership, opportunity, and equality. HB 1298 is a direct conflict to the positive outcomes we work to create through those areas of focus.

HB 1298 removes opportunities, including leadership opportunities from transgender youth in our state in relationship to sports participation.

HB 1298 uses the guise of women's rights to create an environment of discrimination and exclusion in North Dakota high school sports.

NDHAA has had a policy in place since 2015 that outlines participation requirements for transgender athletes; therefore, this has been addressed in detail and this discriminatory bill is not needed.

Today I am asking the committee for a do not pass recommendation on HB 1298.

Thank you,

Kristie Wolff

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