

March 16, 2021

Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

Thank you very much for your time and also for your service to North Dakota.

I am writing to you with concerns regarding House Bill 1298 and how it effects my children. Specifically speaking I have two sons who are high school and club swimmers and have been so for seven years. They have practices and competitions at the Jamestown High School and also at the Hulbert Aquatic Center in West Fargo. With the passing of House Bill 1298 I am afraid that they will no longer have access to the pools they swim in and the competitions that drive their goals and dreams. Because they are public school owned facilities and compete in meets sponsored by our convention and visitor bureau's, this Bill will nullify their participation. Simply due to the fact that our governing bodies have transgender policies, not because we have transgender athletes, my children will not be allowed to participate in their sport.

As a citizen of Valley City, District 24, I also a volunteer throughout the state of North Dakota in various roles for the sport of swimming, and I do not support House Bill 1298. I do not believe that it is in the best interest for North Dakota to negate decades of work done by the International Olympic Committee and the policies and procedures they have put into place to address transgender athletes competing in club sports, nor North Dakota High School Athletics Association policies for high school athletics.

I am not in favor of House Bill 1298 and hope that you will take my opinion, and how it relates to both high school and club athletics, and not penalize the athletes and sports that compete in North Dakota

Again, thank you very much for your time and service. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to voice my concerns to you.

Healthiest regards,

Bret Haglund

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