

Greetings Committee Members,

I am transgender, like many other North Dakotans, and I love my community here in ND and I love my family. And I stand in opposition to House Bill 1298.

North Dakota will have athletes who will perform at the national level. We must teach our young people how to compete within the rules of the NCAA, Olympic boards, and various professional organizations.

House Bill 1298 will negatively impact North Dakota's sports community. There are many small towns that give kids the opportunity to play sports in their communities. The way that House Bill 1298 is also written, it wants to ban trans people from using state facilities for sporting events.

Lawsuits should never be the answer to the anti-science approach that has been taken by the writers of these bills, who have been influenced by out of state special interest groups.

My other big fear I have is that I know that this will cause young people to feel suicidal because it will remove them from teams they've either inspired to be a part of or were already a part of. This could have the indirect consequence of breaking up some families.

I want to make sure people know that transgender people exist within every religion, political affiliation, and nationality. Transgender people across the United States have made major contributions and are a major part of the American workforce. I would hate to see a North Dakota student lose a scholarship because they weren't taught about transgender rights within the NCAA and the US as a whole.

Also the way that this bill is written in a way that doesn't allow groups to rent out facilities and have their own private space that is gender-neutral. I personally have no desire to compete with cisgender males or cisgender females. There are things about the way I've transitioned and that makes it uncomfortable too long to partake in either side and would like to attend gender neutral functions. One gender inclusive function I could see happening at one of our publicly funded facilities is spirit pow wow. I think it would be great to disservice to our culture in North Dakota to prevent people celebrating their own heritage.

Thank you for your time

Rebel Marie  
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