

**Testimony of Chelsea Mitchell
in Support of North Dakota HB 1298**

My name is Chelsea Mitchell, and I'm writing to ask you to give a favorable recommendation to HB 1298.

I ran track in Connecticut during high school. Unfortunately, I was forced to compete against male students every year of my high school sports experience. I rarely got to compete in fair races in my state.

I lost four state championships because our state policy ignored the biological reality and physical advantages of males over females in sport. Four times I was the fastest female in my race, but I didn't get the gold medal or the state title – the males in my race took that honor. I have watched this happen over and over again in my sport in Connecticut – so many girls have been impacted – missing out on their chance to advance in competition or take home a gold medal. It isn't fair and it isn't right. We need separate sports categories based on biological sex in order to fairly compete.

Please protect the young female athletes in North Dakota so they don't have to go through what we in Connecticut have been through. We are watching and counting on you to stand up for women and girls. Please give a favorable recommendation to HB 1298.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chelsea Mitchell', written in a cursive style.

Chelsea Mitchell
Canton, Connecticut