

Sixty-eighth

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3022

Introduced by Representatives Davis, Dakane, Dobervich, Fegley, Finley-Deville, Henderson, Holle, Nelson, Schreiber-Beck

Honorable Chairperson,

March 1, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to support HCR #3022.

My name is Cara Currie Hall and I have been an advocate for Women in Sport, Indigenous Peoples in Sports for over 30 years.

Since 2001 I have been advocating and dialoguing with the NDHSAA – North Dakota High School Activities Association to be more inclusive and invite Native Peoples and Women to serve on the Governing Boards of Directors so that Sports in the State would actually be representative of the citizens. Numerous calls and letters were made and no actions were taken. The NDHSAA leadership has shown no capability of addressing and eliminating the ongoing racism and discrimination of athletes of color and of girls in sports. If this was not the case, then we wouldn't be having to have this discussion at this level.

But, I ask you legislators to change North Dakota and make it a better, inclusive, safe, place for athletes of all colors and both genders.

As a parent I had to live with the unthinkable. Being a global advocate, former athlete and coach, I had to see my own daughter be discriminated by coaches that resulted in a comprehensive international investigation at that [Bismarck High School]. The atrocious comment was made that "you need to be blonde to play for this team". Worse, the Executive Director of the NDHSAA made the decision by [himself] that she would not be able to play on his transfer rule that applies selectively. He took away her opportunities to play sports and killed her dreams. She will never get them back. She was one of the two athletes that were cut from a team in a school that had no such policy. They were both the Native Athletes. And the Booster Club President's ninth grade daughter got to play in their place.

Title IX is a Federal Law and all schools and entities that receive even one dollar \$1.00, are required to uphold the law. It's obvious that the NDHSAA and most sports teams are not gender neutral and its time to change that. Representation matters.

I ask you all to support HCR #3022 today and lead the State in the right direction.

I welcome your questions and the opportunity for further discussion.

Kind Regards,

Cara Currie Hall