



North Dakota House Human Services Committee
Chairman Robin Weisz
January 23, 2023

Re: House Bill 1489

Chairman Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Dr. Polly Peterson, President of the University of Jamestown. I am writing in opposition to HB 1489 which places limitations on higher education institutions regarding athletic events and property.

A North Dakota private higher education institution, its facilities, and athletic teams fall outside the purview of the state, and therefore should not be included in this legislation.

However, a larger issue is at hand. The University of Jamestown, along with all other higher education institutions with athletic teams participating in conference competition, is subject to specific college athletic conference rules. Those rules would conflict with the language proposed in HB 1489, and threaten the participation of North Dakota athletes in conference competition, potentially depriving them of athletic opportunities.

We would urge a Do Not Pass recommendation on HB 1489.

Should this bill proceed with amendments, for reasons stated above, we would ask that the words on lines 11-12, “or a private institution of higher education whose athletic teams compete against an institution under the control of the state board of higher education,” be stricken from the bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dr. Polly Peterson
President University of Jamestown