Sixty-eighth Legislative Aseembly of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1149

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Introduced by:

Representatives Thomas, Dockter, Heinert, Kasper, Porter, D. Ruby, Vetter, Senators Patten, Paulson

Honorable Chairperson,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a testimony to support HB No. 1149.

My name is Cara Currie Hall and I have been a builder of sports organizations and initiatives internationally and I have been an advocate of youth and sports, women in sports, indigenous peoples in sports for over 30 years.

I support this Bill and its purpose to review and rebuild the NDHSAA – North Dakota High Schools Activity Association.

Since 2001 I have had many conversations with the former executive director. [Sherm Schilling], written letters to the Board of Directors, and lobbied for inclusion and representation of women and indigenous peoples on the Board. I have never had one response.

The importance of diversity and representation within that organization has never been more critical. It is time for a study that will, itself, be inclusive and representative of the citizens of North Dakota, and include men and women, and different people groups – like Native Americans.

This study creates a missing element of the NDHSAA and that is the transparency and accountability to the student, the family, the citizens.

A study of this sort also creates an opportunity to implement the Federal Law of Title IX and make this Board and all its partners, truly representative.

Thank you for your consideration and support. I am prepared to answer questions.

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