

I'd like to thank you for your time. My name is David Newman, and I'm a board certified endocrinologist. I specialize in andrology, which are sex hormones. I'm from North Dakota, and proud to have my medical degree from UND. I'm also proud to be one of the few hormone specialists in the state, and one of the fewer that treat gender dysphoria and provide transgender care.

I understand where this bill is coming from. Parents and athletes want a level playing field. They don't want someone who has testosterone competing against someone who doesn't. They don't want a male competing against a female. But this isn't about males against females. These athletes are non transgender females competing against transgender females. Athletics are not always inherently fair. Testosterone levels vary considerably amongst non transgender males and non transgender females, and we don't routinely screen for common medical conditions that increase testosterone amongst cisgender female athletes, such as polycystic ovarian syndrome.

We don't have a lot of academic data regarding athletic performance of transgender individuals, but we do have precedence. North Dakota has had policies since 2015, and the NCAA since 2011. These policies work.

As a former high school athlete in the state, I benefited from not only the health benefits of physical activity, but also the camaraderie, leadership skills, and acceptance of a team. I firmly believe that transgender athletes should benefit from the inclusive nature of a team, rather than be subject to exclusions that can worsen their mental health.

Senator Roers earlier in the session made a point that a bill sought to address only two specific instances in recent years, and was too rare to warrant major changes to law. Transgender athletes are not a problem in North Dakota. Our current rules make sense on a local and national stage, and don't warrant changes. I'm proud of the work we have done in North Dakota regarding transgender healthcare and acceptance, and believe this bill would be a step in the wrong direction.

Sincerely,
David W Newman, MD