



# Family Heritage ALLIANCE

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## SD High School Activities Association Interim Committee

August 12, 2015

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for your service to our great state in your capacity as a Committee Member on this very important Interim Committee.

I serve as the Executive Director of the **Family Heritage Alliance Action**. As you may well know we are a South Dakota based conservative public policy organization. We are associated with such national organizations as Focus On The Family, CitizenLink, Family Research Council and the Alliance Defending Freedom. We exist to champion the values of Faith, Family and Freedom. We envision South Dakota being a state where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished.

Thus, on behalf of **FHA Action** I write today on the issue of the **SDHSAA's Transgender Policy**. The Leadership of the **Family Heritage Alliance Action** fully believes that there were 'good intentions' behind the implementation of this policy. However, upon thorough review, we respectfully believe that the current Transgender Athletic Policy is flawed, unnecessary, and should be **VOIDED** and **REPLACED**.

Recently we asked South Dakotans to give us their opinion of this current Transgender Policy. Over the course of 3-weeks they did so in an overwhelming way as nearly 500 citizens responded with a simple message for the SDHSAA's Board of Directors: **VOID** and **REPLACE** your current Transgender Policy! The results of this petition drive were mailed to each of the SDHSAA's Board of Directors and Executive Staff on June 25, 2015.

Those who signed this petition endorsed a clear, concise language to be used in **REPLACING** the current flawed policy. That language reads:

*For purposes of participation in athletics sanctioned by the SDHSAA the sole determinant of a student's sexual identity is the student's sex. The student's sex is defined as the physical condition of being male or female, which is determined at conception, identified at birth by a person's anatomy, and recorded on their official birth certificate.*

We believe the current Transgender Policy cannot be simply fixed by a few, minor changes. Quite frankly we would be supportive of your decision to join the sixteen other states who have decided that *'No Policy is the Best Policy'* on this issue going forward.

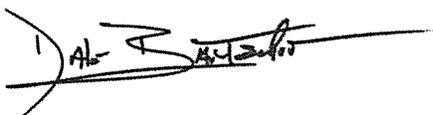
Surely you would agree that every student has a right to privacy and safety. There is **no legal mandate** to demand every child in the district give up these rights because someone who is **anatomically male** thinks he's a girl or the other way around. We sympathize with children who have difficult personal issues to work through. However addressing this issue the way the Activities Association has is out-of-bounds and counter productive for all involved. A 17-year-old boy shouldn't be permitted to deal with those issues in intimate settings with a 13-year-old girl.

Any safety and privacy policy should respect the needs of all children because every child matters. No policy should be tailored to a few students at the expense of every other student.

It was Dr. Billy Graham who rightly said: *"Courage is contagious. When a brave (person) takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened."* We are asking that you be that person who takes a stand for that which is right by encouraging a **VOIDING** and **REPLACING** of this current flawed and unnecessary Transgender Policy.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Please feel free to contact me if I may be of further service.

Standing for Faith, Family and Freedom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Bartscher", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dale Bartscher  
Executive Director  
Family Heritage Alliance Action