

Brian Glaeske
403 11th AVE S
Fargo, ND 58103

Dear Members of the Government and Veterans Affairs committee,

I am writing to urge a Do Not Pass recommendation on HB 1312. There are several sections of this bill that I find problematic. My chief concern is that this bill makes it more difficult to vote in a way that is convenient to the voters of the state. At the end of the day this bill feels like a blatant attempt at voter suppression and should not be passed. Voting should be as easy as possible to ensure all can access the democratic process. The only constraints that should be put in place is verification that people do not vote twice. I believe that the current laws provide for that.

The new constraints on voting by absentee ballot seem ridiculous. Voting in person does not make voting more secure. If that was the case then paying taxes by mail should also be outlawed. Maybe this law should provide that if you pay income tax in the State of North Dakota, a ballot is automatically sent to you.

Further, the fact that this bill takes away the Governor's ability to act without the legislature problematic in an emergency situation. As evidenced by the current crisis, the great North Dakota legislature decided not to call a special session and thus has shown itself unable to respond quickly to changing events.

More and more, I feel like the legislatures of the state of North Dakota are completely out of touch with the reality of the world and would like to force some set of rules that are complexity antithetical to the residents of the state.

I will also further say, that if such voter restrictions becomes law, I will work on a referral to not only nullify the effect of this bill, but I will also make it a crime for any legislator to make it harder for people to vote. Such a referred measure would also contain a requirement to develop a secure mobile voting method using mobile phones, and the web, making voting easier than ever for the residents of the State of North Dakota.

Again, I am writing to urge that this commit recommend that this bill is Do Not Pass.

Sincerely,



Brian Glaeske