

Mary Niehaus
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Dear Members of the Government and Veterans Affairs committee,

I am writing to urge a Do Not Pass recommendation on HB 1312. My main concern is that this bill makes it more difficult to vote. Voting should be as easy as possible to reach as many ND residents as possible and I believe HB 1312 makes it more difficult. Having options of early voting and voting by mail helps to reach more ND residents and makes it easier for residents to vote, depending on their lifestyle and personality. I am especially thankful for the ability to vote by mail in recent years. I feel I am better able to complete the process of voting by having the ballot in front of me at the computer while I research the measures. I enjoy the voting process more, and feel like I am making better informed decisions. In the past when I reach the polls, at times there have been measures that I didn't even know were on the ballot. Again, having the ballot in front of me would help me make a decision for my vote on that measure that I missed versus choosing not to vote on it because I wasn't making an informed decision.

Again, please DO NOT pass HB 1312. It is a backwards step in the voting process.

Sincerely,

Mary Niehaus