

*Testimony for the House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee*

House Concurrent Resolution 3020

Andrew Alexis Varvel

February 19, 2021

Chairman Kasper and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel. I live in Bismarck.

I oppose this proposed constitutional amendment.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. So is the nature of what a subject is.

Where one person sees as a coherent measure, another person may see an omnibus.

Let's say, for the sake of argument, that I promoted an initiated measure to use Heritage Fund money to create an Astronomical Observatory Fund to provide seed money for a world class astronomical observatory in North Dakota, a Veterinary School Fund to establish a world class school of veterinary medicine here, and an Indigenous Language Fund to establish a world class institute here to study indigenous languages. I would see this measure as one subject because I would see it as an expansion of higher education. Someone else may see this an omnibus with three different subjects.

This topic would almost certainly get litigated, and give the North Dakota Supreme Court discretion over what does or does not constitute a "subject". This is not the kind of power that we should be giving over to the North Dakota Supreme Court.

So, please provide this resolution with the full consideration it deserves –  
a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation.

Thank you.

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