

House Concurrent Resolution - 3003

Thank you for the chance to address the members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am writing in opposition to HCR 3003. The resolution would limit citizen-initiated ballot measures to a single subject if the initiative amended the constitution.

This procedural change would create barriers to direct democracy and give the secretary of state the ability to deny proposed amendments. The word "subject" is broad and ill-defined, and the secretary of state would have to make arbitrary decisions on what petitions would be approved for circulation.

The proposed resolution appears to seek to create hurdles for citizen-initiated ballot measures and restrict the power of North Dakota voters to shape law and policy.

I urge the committee to give the resolution a Do Not Pass recommendation to signify that lawmakers trust the voters of North Dakota to make decisions when voting on citizen-initiated ballot measures.

Thank you for your time.

Whitney Oxendahl