

House Industry, Business, & Labor Committee

House Concurrent Resolution 3032

Andrew Alexis Varvel

March 5, 2025

9:00AM

327C

Chairman Warrey & Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel.

I live in Bismarck. I represent myself, and myself only.

House Concurrent Resolution 3032 makes sense.

For over a decade, business owners in North Dakota have been complaining about a shortage of employees.

House Concurrent Resolution 3032 helps solve this problem by not only putting more money into the pockets of workers, but also by showing workers that they are valued by our society. A higher minimum wage would attract more people to not only work at minimum wage jobs, but also “monkey branch” to higher paying jobs that demand greater skills. We need to get more people here!

House Concurrent Resolution 3032 also includes an automatic cost of living adjustment to North Dakota's wage structure which would allow our state to become competitive for attracting workers.

Businesses concerned about raising the cost of employment should please note that if this constitutional amendment gets passed by the voters of North Dakota at the 2026 general election, our state would still lag behind the minimum wages of surrounding states.

By over a dollar.

Keeping our minimum wage down would push workers away.

The people of North Dakota deserve to have a chance to vote on this proposed constitutional amendment, up or down. If the people don't like it, the people should have an opportunity to say so. If the people do like it, the people should have an opportunity to say so.

Either way, please give House Concurrent Resolution a **DO PASS** recommendation so we, as the voters of North Dakota, can make our own decision on this important and momentous matter.

Thank you.

I am open for questions from the committee.