



HB 1178
Senate Education Committee
March 5, 2025

Chair Beard and members of the Senate Education Committee. I am Carol Sawicki, Board member and representative of the League of Women Voters of North Dakota.

HB 1178 requires school districts to adopt a policy allowing students to leave campus to vote in elections. **The League of Women Voters of North Dakota supports HB 1178.**

Studies have shown that:

- Youth who reported having been either encouraged to vote or taught how to register to vote in high school are more likely to vote and participate in other civic activities and are more knowledgeable about voting processes;¹
- Voting in one election substantially increases the likelihood of voting in the future;²
- Providing time from school or work increases the likelihood of voting, particularly for youth who are struggling economically.³

Young people have unique and valuable perspectives on social issues and our democracy flourishes when these perspectives are represented in civic life. In addition, youth civic engagement can enhance their academic performance, social skills, and emotional well-being.⁴

Thank you for reviewing our testimony and we ask the Committee to vote in favor of HB 1178.

¹ [Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement](#)

² [Gerber, Green Shachar, 2003.](#)

³ [CIRCLE, Expanding the Electorate, 2018](#)

⁴ [CIRCLE, Why Is Youth Civic Engagement Important](#)