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January 28, 2021

TO: Chairman Kasper and Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
FR: Jim Silrum, Deputy Secretary of State on behalf of Secretary of State Al Jaeger
RE: HB 1173 – Printing full text of measure and significant effects on the ballot

This bill amends NDCC § 16.1-06-09 to require that the full text of the measure be placed on the ballot as was the case in HB 1119 that was heard last week. However, this bill amends that section further on page 2, lines 26 and 29 to state that the Secretary of State must also list "all significant effects" of an affirmative or negative vote on the measure. Under current law, included with the **Yes** and **No** choices are:

- **Yes**, means you approve the measure stated above
- **No**, means you reject the measure stated above

Under this bill, this simple wording would not be sufficient.

While it is important for voters to be fully informed about a measure on the ballot, we believe that the better option would be to focus on the ways to make the initiated constitutional measures brief as should be the case with all amendments to the constitution regardless of how they are placed on the ballot.

On behalf of the Secretary of State and his election team, we request the committee vote for a Do Not Pass recommendation.