

Chairman Kasper, members of the committee, my name is Matthew Ternus, and I have the pleasure of serving as the Student Body President within the University of North Dakota's Student Government this academic year. Unlike my three immediate predecessors, I was not North Dakota born and raised. I'm originally from Rogers, Minnesota, just north of Minneapolis. To be engaged in the democratic process of voting, under current state policies, I'd have to obtain a North Dakota ID and have proof I have resided at my North Dakota address for at least 30 days. Should a policy such as this take place, adding a requirement to live in North Dakota for at least a year, it is the worry of UND Student Government that countless students like myself may face a reality that we may not be able to engage in electoral politics in the community which we may spend four or more years in.

Our student body consists of a total of 13,615 students. 4,571 of those students are originally from the state of North Dakota, meaning roughly 9,000 students, or 66% of our student body, comes from other states. Those students who move to North Dakota in August and wish to partake in a federal, state, or local election that same November may be barred from doing so under this policy as they wouldn't have been here for 365 days. 1,614 beginning freshmen, 956 transfer students. Many of these students, new to campus, come from states other than North Dakota, all may see their right to vote restricted under this suggested change.

Our UND Student Government passed a resolution, which you can view in the attached testimony, in opposition to H.B. 1289 on February 3rd. Our student representatives expressed similar concerns, worried about the potential limitation to a student's right to vote. For more information on the demographics of UND's student body, follow this link:

<https://und.edu/analytics-and-planning/data-and-reports/student-body-profiles.html>