Chairperson Dockter and members of the Political Subdivision Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 1397.

My name is Kristin Rubbelke and I am Executive Director of the North Dakota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-ND). I am submitting testimony on behalf of NASW-ND's opposition to HB 1397.

NASW-ND opposes HB 1397 due to the purposeful intent to keep secret the discussions and documents that would shape future electoral district boundaries of North Dakota. These deliberations should be made available to the public by allowing public input in order to prevent exploitation or discrimination of vulnerable, disadvantaged, oppressed, and exploited people and groups; as well as to ensure transparency, social justice, and equality for all North Dakotans.

The North Dakota legislature should approve a process that gives validity and transparency to its residents. This bill does the opposite. Therefore, NASW-ND urges the committee to withdraw HB 1397 or vote do not pass on the measure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristin Rubbelke, LBSW, MSW
Executive Director
NASW-ND