

**NDAB Resolution 2021-04:
Equal Access to An Accessible Absentee Ballot**

WHEREAS, federal and state law requires equal access to the ballot and voting experience, including the right to a private and independent, verifiable accessible absentee ballot; and

WHEREAS, technology to make an absentee ballot accessible is available and represents an economical way to make the voting experience available to persons with disabilities, many of whom experience difficulties in traveling from their residences to designated polling sites; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Dakota has received federal monies to conduct its state elections, a small portion of which could be used to acquire statewide Accessible (technology to make the absentee ballot accessible to qualified voters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the North Dakota Association of the Blind at its meeting on this Sunday, January 10, 2021, that:

1. Its members call upon the leaders and members of both houses of the North Dakota Legislature to recognize this protected right, and consider and pass legislation if needed to make an accessible absentee ballot available to all qualified voters in North Dakota on an equal basis.
2. Respectfully urges the Governor of the State of North Dakota to sign any such legislation which meets the above goal; and
3. Strongly encourages responsible elements of State Government to certify one or more accessible absentee voting systems which meet the goal of this resolution and

strive to make such system(s) available to qualified voters in all 53 of North Dakota's counties in time for the 2022 election cycle.