

# NORTH DAKOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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## **Representative Kim Koppelman**

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**Speaker of the House**

3-26-2021

## **Testimony in Support of HCR 3010**

### **Before the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Like all of you, I am an avid supporter of our Constitutions, both our US Constitution and our North Dakota Constitution. Years ago, before many of you were here, I chaired the Constitutional Revision Committee. Its work was later added to the Judiciary Committee's workload, so I've been watching proposed changes to our Constitution very carefully, over the years.

I'm not sure if you're aware of it, but a little noticed but very dangerous provision was recently slipped into the North Dakota Constitution, as part of a larger measure, which threatens to negate the rest of the very Constitution we all take an oath to support. It is so brazen that it seeks supremacy over all the rest of the Constitution which been crafted since statehood.

Yes, you heard correctly. Our Constitution contains a recently-added Supremacy clause!

The audacity to insert a provision into our Constitution which claims supremacy over the rest of it is not only shocking. It is a violation of everything we hold dear. When we take our oath of office, it is to support the Constitution, as a whole, not to bow at the alter of someone's pet provision. No single portion of the Constitution should reign supreme over all else in the Constitution!

This phrase, this concept does not belong in the North Dakota Constitution. HCR 3010 seeks to remove it and I hope that you'll join me in supporting this common-sense effort to give our entire Constitution the respect that it deserves and to keep all of it on level ground. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee members.