

**Testimony by Jennifer Greuel, NDANO Executive Director
Senate Political Subdivisions Committee
In Support of SB 2138
January 21, 2021**

Chairman Burckhard and members of the Committee, my name is Jennifer Greuel, and I am the executive director of the North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations (NDANO). I am here to express support for SB 2138.

NDANO is the statewide membership association for the North Dakota nonprofit sector. Our members work in all mission areas, from human services and the environment to education and the arts, and represent all sizes, from small volunteer-run nonprofits to multi-million-dollar organizations, in all corners of the state. NDANO educates, advocates and connects to strengthen nonprofits.

When the pandemic hit in March, many nonprofits were faced with immediately needing to reschedule their annual meetings, which are required in statute to be held to maintain nonprofit status, or to change processes and hold the meeting remotely. However, many nonprofits encountered a statutory obstacle that does not allow organizations' annual meetings to be held remotely without a change to their bylaws, hindering their ability to conduct business as usual. Depending on the process each organization has chosen to amend bylaws, this can be a difficult undertaking. Some organizations may be unaware of the language in statute about remote annual meetings, and may be unknowingly not following Century Code. This wordage change would allow for annual meetings to be held by remote means and allow nonprofits to continue efficiently serving the state.

NDANO asks for a do pass recommendation to SB 2138. Thank you.