

Dear Senate State and Local Government Committee,

In re: SCR 4013.

I strongly encourage the Senate not to support this resolution for the following reasons.

There is no reasonable justification for increasing the percentage of voters needed to approve an initiated constitutional amendment from 50% to 67%. To require 67% of voters goes against Article III, Section 8 of the ND Constitution which only requires a majority of of the votes cast be in favor.

The fact that the Resolution requires an increase from 4% to 5% of ND residents sign the petition before it can even be submitted to the Secretary of State shows clearly that the intent behind this Resolution is to limit the right of ND citizens to make an initiated measure, curtailing their right to participate in the democratic process.

The Resolution doesn't follow the ND Constitution, Article II, Section 1 in that it requires that individuals circulating a petition would be required to have resided in the state for at least 120 days. The Constitution does not have this requirement for a qualified elector.

It's unfair (and directly violates the 1st and 14th Amendments to the US Constitution) to require initiative petitioners not be paid for their time when political parties have the legal right to pay people to work on their campaigns. Even lobbyists are often paid for their work.

Thank you for your time and, I hope also, your decision not to support SCR 4013.

--Barbara A Dunn
1329 11th Ave S
Fargo, ND 58103