

Written testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 3019

Chairman Louser and Industry, Business and Labor Committee Members

My name is Kevin Herrmann, 300 Fair St. SW, Beulah, ND 58523. I am an independent North Dakota citizen. I could not testified in person due to being ask to conduct business in behalf for Concordia Lutheran Church in Beulah.

I oppose House Concurrent Resolution 3019. This resolution is trying to make changes to Article XV Term Limits. In the November 8th, 2022 general election, the citizens of North Dakota approved measure 1 which was about term limits. Now the supermajority of legislators are abusing there so called superior power to change section 1 and section 2 of Article XV to increase the term limit from 8 years to 12 years then after 4 years could be elected again for another 12 years. If the citizens of North Dakota did not want term limits of total of 8 years, the vote outcome would have been different. Section 4 of Article XV is the biggest problem the supermajority of legislators are upset and hate. Section 4 does not allow legislative assembly to alter or repeal the term limitations established in section 1 of this article. The initiative petition of the people under Article III of North Dakota Constitution can alter or repeal by proposing a petition amendment to the ballot. Section 4 is the most important part of Article XV to keep overzealous legislators from continuing to alter or repeal what the people of North Dakota approved on the ballot. Instead of this resolution, the sponsors of this resolution can get an initiative petition sponsoring committee establish to proceed to gather signatures to get an initiative petition on the ballot.

All elected legislators had to take the oath to protect the North Dakota Constitution but will only protect the constitution when it suits legislators. In the 2019 legislative session, House Bill 1193 was passed by a supermajority of legislators relating to mandating a prohibition to petition for a living wage provision to the political subdivisions. This took away hourly wage workers

constitutional right to file a petition to a political subdivision. In the 2021 legislative session, House Bill 1398 relating to a mandate prohibition on regulating family sick leave on political subdivisions which took away the hourly wage workers constitutional right to file a petition to a political subdivision.

I have heard too often of the supermajority of legislators making false statements about out of state influence on getting petition measures on the ballot and the citizens of North Dakota do not know what they are doing or voting on. There was no out of state addresses listed of the sponsoring committee members for the term limits initiative petition. Actually, there were 2 current North Dakota legislators and 5 past North Dakota legislators on the term limit sponsoring committee.

In this 2023 legislative session, there has been more out of state influenced legislative bills introduced compared to past legislative sessions. Why does out of state influence have more influence than citizens of North Dakota?

The taxpayers of North Dakota are paying your legislative session daily salary, monthly salary and free health insurance to follow the North Dakota constitution and not alter or repeal any part of the North Dakota constitution. If there is any change to the North Dakota constitution could be in Article IV, the citizens of North Dakota should be voting on any increase of legislator's daily salary during legislative session and monthly salary. Legislators voting on their own pay is unethical.

I am asking the House Industry, Business and Labor committee to give House Concurrent Resolution 3019 a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

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