

## Written testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 4013

Madam Chair and Senate State and Local Government Committee Members

My name is Kevin Herrmann, 300 Fair St. SW, Beulah, ND 58523. I am an independent North Dakota citizen.

I stand oppose to Senate Concurrent Resolution 4013.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 4013 is an attack toward Article III “Powers Reserved to the People” section 9. The last few legislative sessions, there has been resolutions introduced dealing with Article III “Powers Reserved to the People” some legislators continue being upset of initiated petitions making it either on the primary or general election ballot by the citizens of North Dakota. Such as, 2016 ballot- provide certain rights to victims of crime in this state (Marcy’s Law), 2016 ballot- medical marijuana use for defined medical conditions, 2018 ballot- establish a state ethic commission and in 2022- term limits. I would hear either in committee hearings or on legislative floor sessions displeasure about forcing the legislators to act on legislation that the supermajority of legislators did not believe in but had too. If the legislators would have passed House Bill 1442 in Sixty-third Legislative session or House Concurrent Resolution 3060 in Sixty-fourth Legislative session creating a state ethic’s commission maybe the citizens of North Dakota would not have taken it upon themselves to get the initiated petition on the ballot. House Bill 1430 relating to the use of medical marijuana in 2015 legislative session was defeated which the citizens of North Dakota use their power to get medical marijuana on the ballot.

In 2017-2018 interim, I attended every Initiated and Referred Measures Study Commission meeting. The commission consisted of 1 individual appointed from Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as commission chairman, 6 legislators, 1 individual appointed from Secretary of State Office, 7 citizens appointed by the Governor and 4 individuals appointed by 4 separate organizations. The commission considered a few resolutions and legislative bill drafts. The majority of the commission did not approve some of the drafts from some of the

legislators on the commission. So, in 2019 various legislators introduced legislative bills attacking Article III "Power Reserved to the People".

So in this 2023 legislative session, here we have Senate Concurrent Resolution 4013. I imagine the reasoning for this bill will be said how easy it is to get an initiative petition on the ballot and out of state influence. I do not believe any of those reasons. How about you as legislators ask the Secretary of State office about how many petitions have not made it to the primary or general election ballot due to lack of signatures on the petition or for other reasons?

So where is the proof of out of state influence on the initiative petition process? I have seen out of state influence with campaign contribution toward to some candidates on their campaign contribution report. There has always been out of state influence on some legislative bill introduced in each session. I will give three examples. In 2019 legislative session, House Bill 1193 passed relating to a living wage prohibition for political subdivisions. The reason for House Bill 1193, there was individuals in very high population out of state petitioning to get living wage provision on the ballot at their local political subdivision. House Bill 1193 took my constitution right to file a petition to my local political subdivision. In 2021 legislative session, House Bill 1398 passed relating to a mandate prohibition on regulating paid family leave on political subdivision which was out of state influence for the bill which took my constitution right to file a petition to a political subdivision. Also, House Bill 1207 relating to asbestos liability was totally out of state influence which affected workers who work around asbestos.

Shouldn't all legislative bills in both North Dakota Senate and House of Representative floor sessions have to pass with 67 percent of the votes as the same concept of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4013 if this bill passes?

I am asking the Senate State and Local Government committee to give Senate Concurrent Resolution a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

Kevin Herrmann