

January 23, 2025

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
HB 1276

Chairman Schauer and Committee members:

Let the record reflect my support for House Bill 1276 ("HB 1276"), as introduced by Representatives Hendrix, D. Johnston Koppelman, D. Ruby, Bolinske, Henderson, Kasper and Senators Wobbema and Castaneda.

North Dakota Century Code section 53-06.1-03 contains some ambiguity as to what organizations and activities would qualify as a "public-spirited organization". SB 2035, which has passed the Senate as of this testimony, seeks to clarify but unfortunately makes it more likely that raffles held by legislative district organizations would not fall under this definition. I have been involved in local politics for a number of years and have served on the executive committee for District 8 since 2021. Gun raffles are a significant fundraising source for our district to support our endorsed legislators as they are for a number of other districts across the state to whom I have financially contributed via similar raffles. If such raffles are not permitted, campaigns will necessarily be funded via a limited number of high net-worth individuals and political action campaigns.

I respectfully request a "do pass" recommendation from the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Respectfully,

Matthew S. Simon