

**Do Pass Testimony
of Doug Sharbono, citizen of North Dakota
on HB1297
in the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota**

Dear Chairman Schauer and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

I am writing as a citizen and believe HB1297 is great legislation. This legislation fulfills the concept of “one person, one vote.” Approval voting has been an absolute disaster in Fargo. Fargo citizens were told by the proponents of approval voting that it would solve the problem of the minority number of voters electing the officeholder. Achievement of their goal was a failure. As an example, only 13.86% and 12.58% of the Fargo City voters elected the top two city commission candidates on primary elections 2022. This is pathetic. The 2018 proponents of approval voting did not give us the benefit they promised.

My vote was disenfranchised in Primary 2024 under the approval voting method. I had a number of candidates I wanted to approve, but the election ballot failed to provide me adequate room on the ballot to write in these candidates as per state law. There were only two blanks provided, which were less than the number of candidates I wanted to approve and that local law permitted me to approve. I followed up this problem with my voting center inspector and Cass County Elections, and they could not provide a remedy that followed state and local law.

While I was canvassing and assisting campaigning in 2022, approval voting was mass confusion amongst the citizens. Many did not have a clue to which candidates the approval voting method applied, and this was the second season of it under Fargo’s belt. Despite much instruction, there were many spoiled votes in 2022 due to overvotes on non-city elections on the ballot. Approval voting is a scourge to our constitutional republic and needs to be stopped and not allowed to spread. We need a statewide uniform standard, no exception.

Please give HB1297 a Do Pass.

Thank you,

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