

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Testimony of Travis R Zabloutney HB1424

February 5, 2025

Chairman Schauer and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee:

I ask you to recommend a do pass on HB1424. I am Travis Zabloutney resident of Minot and Chairman of District 5 NDGOP.

Since my involvement in district party politics, I have noticed a reoccurring problem. Some district chairs and district executive committees do not always like to play by their own district bylaws or rules. This is sometimes a blatant violation and happens most often if their own power is being threatened. Other times it is because they have not read or do not understand the rules or bylaws they were elected to uphold. Grassroots members should be able to trust the district chairman and the executive district committee. However, mistakes happen or games do sometimes get played. This bill will bring accountability to district endorsement process and bring confidence to the grassroots members that an endorsement will be done per the district bylaws. If they believe the district endorsement rules or bylaws have not been followed, they would now have a way to see a correction in the error or willful the violation.

In addition, this bill fundamentally supports the primary reason a party exists. It exists because its members agree to a core group of values called its platform. It is the platform that becomes the brand and the brand is what people vote for as it most closely represents their own personal values. This brand becomes worthless and meaningless when just anyone can co-opt it in the primary election process. This bill would give the brand back to those that have earned it through the candidate endorsement process. This endorsement process is the important vetting of candidates for a brand and is expected to be done according to the values of the brand or the party being represented. This is imperative for the survival of any brand or party. To do otherwise and allow a candidate to solely choose their brand or party on their own most often is a misrepresentation to the public. In other words, without the language in this proposed bill a non-endorsed political party candidate is most always a fraud and is not brought by the will of its grassroots members.

I STRONGLY URGE A DO PASS ON HB1424

Respectfully,

Travis Zabloutney

District 5 Chairman NDGOP

Minot, ND