

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION
TO HCR 3003

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Bill 3003

Date of Hearing: January 16, 2025

Denise Ann Dykeman 1840 12th St SW, Minot, ND 58701

My name is Denise Ann Dykeman. I am a resident of Minot, North Dakota, and practicing attorney. This written testimony is presented in opposition to HCR 3003, which is a direct assault on the freedoms North Dakotans have cherished for generations.

Article III of the North Dakota Constitution, titled “Powers Reserved to the People,” ensures that we, the citizens, have the power to make decisions that directly impact our lives. However, HCR 3003, just like Measure 2, which was defeated at the ballot box last year, attempts to erode that power by introducing changes that fundamentally undermine majority rule by increasing the approval threshold to 60% of the vote for constitutional ballot measures. It’s a dangerous precedent that weakens North Dakotan’s voices in government.

On top of that, HCR 3003 sets a double standard, with one set of rules for politicians and another for citizens. It demands that North Dakotans jump through hoops, requiring a 60% approval for any citizen-initiated ballot measure while still requiring a simple majority for the measures that politicians introduce themselves. This bill would make it much harder for everyday people to have their voices heard and easier for politicians to maintain control.

The people have already spoken: We don’t want or need a higher bar for citizen-initiated ballot measures!

Please oppose HCR 3003.

Respectfully,

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