

Catherine Benton
HCR 3003
January 13, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3003.

My name is Catherine Benton, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to this resolution. HCR 3003 proposes to amend the Constitution of North Dakota to increase the threshold for approving constitutional amendments from a simple majority to sixty percent. This change poses significant concerns for the democratic process and the principles of representative government.

First and foremost, raising the threshold for constitutional amendments undermines the will of the people. A simple majority has long been the standard for democratic decision-making, reflecting the collective voice of the electorate. Increasing the threshold to sixty percent makes it significantly more difficult for the citizens of North Dakota to enact meaningful changes through the ballot box. This change risks disenfranchising voters and stifling the ability of the public to influence the state constitution effectively.

Moreover, this resolution could have the unintended consequence of entrenching existing power structures and hindering progress. By requiring a supermajority, the resolution makes it more challenging to address pressing issues and adapt to evolving societal needs. It is essential that our constitution remains accessible and responsive to the will of the people, rather than being constrained by an unnecessarily high barrier to change.

Additionally, the proposed amendment could exacerbate divisions and gridlock within the state. Achieving a sixty percent majority on contentious issues is exceedingly difficult, and this high threshold may lead to prolonged stalemates and a lack of meaningful action on critical matters. This is not in the best interest of North Dakotans, who deserve a government that can efficiently and effectively respond to their needs and concerns.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote NO on HCR 3003. It is vital that we uphold the democratic principles of majority rule and ensure that the voices of North Dakotans are heard and respected. Please prioritize legislation that enhances, rather than restricts, the ability of the public to participate in the democratic process.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

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