

State and Local Government Committee
Constitution Amendment Concurrent Resolution 4007
20 February 2025

Ed Schafer

Chairwoman Roers, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Senate State and Local Government committee.

Today is National Leadership Day and I want to take the opportunity to thank you for your service to the people of North Dakota in leadership roles in our Government.

My name is Ed Schafer, a North Dakota citizen residing in Fargo and a member of District 46.

I come in support of Senate Constitution Amendment Concurrent Resolution 4007.

Senator Hogue's proposed resolution restricts initiated measures to one subject matter only which is a good thing.

I was thinking about this and remembered Speaker Nancy Pelosi's comments a few years ago about a 12 or 15-hundred-page bill in front of the US Congress when she said, "We have to pass it so we can find out what is in it!"

And that is often what the people of North Dakota are confronted with when trying to understand constitutional measures on the ballot.

A short summary of the legislation appears, but it cannot come close to defining everything contained in the proposed amendments. And we have examples of ballot measures containing a fancy title and a good sounding paragraph of two up front, but buried in the language are bait and switch issues that are totally different than the concept initially presented to the people.

By requiring a single subject, it ensures that voters can make informed decisions without being confused or misled by multiple, potentially unrelated topics being presented together.

Moreover, this bill promotes transparency and accountability in the legislative process. When proposals are limited to a single subject, it becomes easier for both lawmakers and the public to understand the implications and potential impacts of the proposed amendments.

Madam Chair and members of the committee, I urge you to support Concurrent Resolution 4007.

It is better for the legislative deliberations, better for the Constitutional Amendment process and most importantly, better for the people of ND.