

1 **TESTIMONY OF DAVID HOGUE IN SUPPORT SCR 4007**

2 **SENATE STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

3 **Room 216; 9:00 AM**

4 **February 19, 2025**

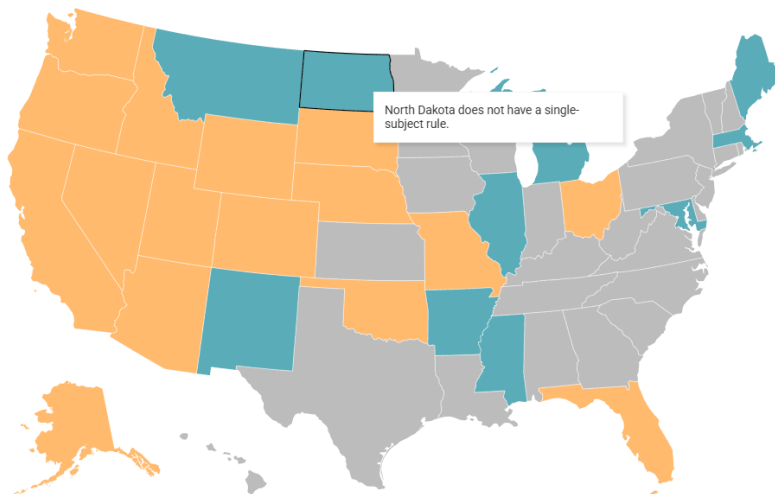
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6 Good morning Chairwoman Roers and members of the Senate State & Local
7 Government Committee.. My name is David Hogue. I am a North Dakota state senator
8 representing District 38, which includes northwest Minot and the city of Burlington. I
9 appear before your committee to seek support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 4007.

10 SCR 4007 is a proposed state constitutional amendment that limits initiated
11 constitutional amendments to a single subject. The majority of states that permit
12 constitutional amendments limit constitutional amendments to a single subject.

Single-subject rule for state ballot initiatives

Single-subject rule
Yes No No I&R



13 *Last updated: September 2023*

14 I submit the single subject limitation is necessary for constitutional ballot
15 measures for several reasons. First, ND voters do not receive a copy of the ballot

1 measure under current law. While the content of ballot measures is available on line,
2 the simple reality is that the vast majority of voters do not read the entire ballot
3 measure. Instead, they rely on a summary of the ballot measure that is prepared by the
4 collective work of our ND Attorney General and ND Secretary of State. That summary
5 is simply not enough information to be voting on constitutional measures. I would pose
6 the question to all of you: would you be comfortable in voting on the senate floor based
7 only the summary of the bill in the title? For me, the answer is no.

8 The single subject rule helps limit the content and complexity of constitutional
9 amendments by holding the drafter and sponsors to focus on a single subject that is
10 readily understandable by the voters. SCR 4007 would permit the North Dakota
11 Secretary of State to determine whether the proposed measure encompasses more
12 than one subject.

13 I would like to request that the measure be amended to permit this proposal to be
14 placed on the June primary ballot of 2026. I would also like to propose that the
15 measure not be supplemented with other initiative reform like, e.g., a super majority of
16 votes or other reforms. This measure, properly understood by the voters, will pass as a
17 stand alone measure.

18 I would be happy to address your questions Madam Chair. Thank you for your
19 consideration.

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