

**2021 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HCR 3020**

# 2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HCR 3020  
2/18/2021

Declaring the state will obey only the federal laws, agency rules, or presidential executive orders the state determines to be constitutional
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**Chairman Kasper** opened the hearing at 5:11 p.m.

Representatives	Roll Call
Representative Jim Kasper	P
Representative Ben Koppelman	P
Representative Pamela Anderson	P
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	P
Representative Karen Karls	P
Representative Scott Louser	P
Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	P
Representative Mitch Ostlie	P
Representative Karen M. Rohr	P
Representative Austen Schauer	P
Representative Mary Schneider	P
Representative Vicky Steiner	P
Representative Greg Stemen	P
Representative Steve Vetter	P

### Discussion Topics:

- Law obedience

**Rep. Schatz** introduced and testified in favor.

**Andrew Varvel** testified in opposition, #6910.

**Vice Chair B. Koppelman** moved **Do Pass**. **Rep. Hoverson** seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Pamela Anderson	N
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Karen Karls	N
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Representative Mitch Ostlie	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	N
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y

Representative Steve Vetter	Y
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**Motion passes.** 11-3-0. **Rep. Hoverson** is the carrier.

**Chairman Kasper** ended at 5:25 p.m.

*Carmen Hart, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3020: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** (11 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR  
3020 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

*Testimony for the House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee*

House Concurrent Resolution 3020

Andrew Alexis Varvel

February 18, 2021

Chairman Kasper and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel. I live in Bismarck.

I oppose this resolution.

It is not only a bad idea to proclaim a state's right to nullify a federal law that it doesn't like, but it is also a bad habit to get into. The State of South Carolina proclaimed its right to nullify federal statutes in 1832. It didn't turn out well for South Carolina.

Whenever the people of this state pass an initiated measure that runs directly counter to federal law, I suppose we're stuck. Otherwise, the State of North Dakota should avoid picking fights with the federal government. Our state doesn't have much influence with the present administration right now, and our focus should be on limiting damage to our state's long term interests stemming from that lack of influence.

It is the role of our federal courts to decide what is or is not constitutional. As annoying as federal court rulings can be at times, we do need to respect their authority on the matter. Rather than simply refusing to obey federal laws our state doesn't like, it would be far wiser for our state to challenge unconstitutional pretensions of authority by the federal executive branch in federal court – and pick our battles wisely.

Please provide this resolution an unequivocal **DO NOT PASS** recommendation.

Thank you.

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**2021 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HCR 3020**

# 2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
Room JW216, State Capitol

HCR 3020  
4/1/2021

<b>Declaring the state will obey only the federal laws, agency rules, or presidential executive orders the state determines to be constitutional.</b>
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**Chair Vedaa** opened the hearing at 9:30 AM with Sen Vedaa, Meyer, Elkin, K Roers, Weber, Wobbema, and Marcellais present.

**Discussion Topics:**

- HB 1335 vs HCR 3020
- Message to Washington, D.C.

**Rep Schatz – Dist 36** – introduced the resolution

**Sen Roers** moves **Do Not Pass**

**Sen Marcellais** seconds

**Roll Call Vote: 2-Yea; 5-Nay; 0-Ab Motion fails**

Senators	Vote
Senator Shawn Vedaa	N
Senator Scott Meyer	N
Senator Jay R. Elkin	N
Senator Richard Marcellais	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Mark F. Webber	N
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	N

**Sen Wobbema** moves **Do Pass**

**Sen Elkin** seconds

**Roll Call Vote 5-Yea; 2-Nay; 0-Ab Motion Carries**

Senators	Vote
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jay R. Elkin	Y
Senator Richard Marcellais	N
Senator Kristin Roers	N
Senator Mark F. Webber	Y
Senator Michael A. Wobbema	Y

**Sen Vedaa will carry the bill**

Adjourned at 9:42 AM.

*Pam Dever, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HCR 3020: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Vedaa, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR  
3020 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.