



March 22nd, 2021

Chair Vedaa and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carl Ludewig, and I am the current Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the North Dakota Student Association. The NDSA is an organization that is directly funded through a small student fee paid by all students attending North Dakota University System (NDUS) institutions, and our organization is tasked with representing and advocating for students across all eleven of North Dakota's public institutions.

This testimony is **submitted in Support of HB 1447 as written** on the behalf of the NDSA. At our January General Assembly meeting, on January 29th, the NDSA delegation voted overwhelmingly to support the then current wording of the bill with "NDSA-11-2021: A Resolution in Support to HB 1447 as Written."

Our organization supports and encourages all students of higher education to do their civic duty by voting in both state and federal elections. Therefore, the accessibility for students to vote in the state in which they live in and have a voice their voices heard is crucial in the student experience and student life. We voted to support HB 1447 as it stood within the house as it allowed student identification cards to be utilized for students to vote and more specifically gave students that were unable to present a document stating their current address, the ability to vote. We had concerns with the first bill along with the safety aspect of having addresses on student ID's. While this version wont help as many students vote, as the printable PDF wont be considered a valid form of Identification, it will help the students that live in on campus housing provide a valid proof of residency to use to vote. Therefore, the NDSA respectfully ask for a do pass recommendation as this bill would increase access to voting for North Dakota Students wo are residents of the state.

Sincerely,

Carl Ludewig

Vice President of Governmental Affairs

North Dakota Student Association

