

MICHAEL C. HOWE
SECRETARY OF STATE

WEBSITE sos.nd.gov



PHONE (701) 328-2900
E-MAIL sos@nd.gov

SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
600 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE DEPT 108
BISMARCK ND 58505-0500

HOUSE GOVERNMENT & VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE AUSTEN SCHAUER, CHAIR

HOUSE BILL 1441
JANUARY 27, 2023

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY

MICHAEL HOWE, SECRETARY OF STATE

Chairman Schauer and members of the committee, I am Michael Howe, Secretary of State. I am here to give insight into current practices and highlight areas that may need more clarity in House Bill 1441.

This proposed legislation seeks to create greater reporting responsibilities for multi-candidate committees. Many of the changes suggested here are very similar to reporting requirements that already exist for PACs within our state. PACs currently submit an itemized listing of expenditures, where multi-candidate committees submit expenses in categories.

We believe, based on the intention of this legislation, that amending this bill to mirror the same reporting requirements for PACs would address the issue more clearly, reduce confusion, and potentially eliminate costs. The reporting requirements as proposed would require significant programming changes to our current campaign finance reporting system and likely would require a fiscal note for us to fully implement this legislation.