

MICHAEL C. HOWE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

WEBSITE [sos.nd.gov](http://sos.nd.gov)



PHONE (701) 328-2900  
E-MAIL [sos@nd.gov](mailto:sos@nd.gov)

## SECRETARY OF STATE

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

**HOUSE GOVERNMENT & VETERAN'S AFFAIRS**  
**REPRESENTATIVE AUSTEN SCHAUER**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3031**  
**MARCH 3, 2023**

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY

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**MICHAEL HOWE, SECRETARY OF STATE**

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The Office of Secretary of State respectfully submits neutral written testimony on HCR 3031. This bill seeks to establish an e-petition system and new thresholds for signature gathering on ballot and constitutional measures.

The simple ease of collecting signatures digitally has great appeal. We believe that public expectation is moving in this direction, however, this office would want to ensure the integrity of the process in the implementation of this type of technology. The ability to verify identity in some manner would be a necessary component of any signature gathering in a digital platform system. We believe that tying this to driver or non-driver identification, just as we do for voter identification, would be the right direction.

Greater clarity by the bill's sponsors may be needed. We believe the intent is most likely seeking a completely digital process, where an individual could sign and prove their identify from the comfort of their home using a web browser or mobile device to sign a petition.

Chairman Schauer, members of the committee, this completes my testimony and I'm happy to stand for any questions.