

Members of the Political Subdivisions Committee,

As a parent and resident of North Dakota, I am writing to show my opposition to HB 1273. I am deeply concerned about the impact that this bill would have on our democracy, and on the ability of local communities to make decisions that best serve their citizens.

As a parent, I believe that it is important to give our children a strong foundation in the principles of democracy, including the right to have a voice in our government and to have our votes counted fairly. By banning Approval Voting and Ranked Choice Voting, HB 1273 would take away these rights from our citizens and would undermine the principle of local control.

I also believe that it is important to support the ability of local communities to choose the voting methods that best serve their needs. By dictating to local communities what voting methods they can and cannot use, HB 1273 would be a step backward for our democracy and would prevent our communities from making the changes that they believe are necessary to improve our elections and to better reflect the diverse views and interests of our citizens. This change isn't fair to my neighbors and friends in Fargo who already have chosen to adopt Approval Voting and certainly isn't fair to the rest of the state should we wish to do the same.

I urge you to reject HB 1273 and to support the right of local communities to choose the voting methods that best serve their needs. By doing so, you would be helping to strengthen our democracy and to ensure that all citizens, including our children, have a voice in their government.

Sincerely,

Tracy Clapper