

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

SENATE STATE & LOCAL COMMITTEE
SENATOR KRISTIN ROERS, CHAIRMAN

SENATE BILL 2308
JANUARY 26, 2023

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY

MICHAEL HOWE, SECRETARY OF STATE

Madam Chair and members of the committee. For the record, Michael Howe, North Dakota Secretary of State, and I am here in opposition to Senate Bill 2308 which would remove the option to vote by mail-in ballot for North Dakota's citizens.

In the last two election cycles, voting by mail was used by more than half of North Dakotans who have the ability to cast their vote by mail. Vote by mail is a valuable tool for North Dakotans to ensure their vote counts, especially when they have barriers to making it to the polls on election day. Currently, there are over 30 counties utilizing vote by mail. More than 70,000 North Dakotans considered it a secure way to cast their ballot in the last election, making up nearly 30 percent of those who voted in the November 2022 election.

Quite simply, people in North Dakota like to vote by mail and I urge you not to remove this valuable tool for North Dakota elections by giving Senate Bill 2308 a Do Not Pass.