

Testimony in Opposition to HCR 3003
April 4, 2025

Chair Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee: I am writing to ask you to **please give a Do Not Pass to HCR 3003**.

The North Dakota State Legislature continues to try to diminish “powers reserved to the people” by the ND Constitution and I do not understand this effort by state legislators. The only rationales I can come up with are that legislators do not trust the people of North Dakota or that legislators do not like ballot measures that have been passed by citizens in previous years. Neither rationale represents a valid reason for legislators to propose to diminish the right of North Dakotans to amend the state constitution.

Some legislators assert that it is “too easy” to amend the ND Constitution. But to propose and adopt constitutional amendments by the initiative is not an “easy” process. In addition, North Dakota legislators approve policy with a simple majority. The people of North Dakota, through the initiative process, should also be able to approve policy with the same simple majority.

If state legislators do not want a ballot measure to pass, they should promote and support voter education efforts rather than making it more difficult for a measure to pass.

Requiring a simple majority of votes for passage of an initiated or a referred measure has been a North Dakota practice for over 100 years. There is no valid reason to change that practice now.

Thank you for your attention to my testimony.

Amy Phillips
North Dakota resident