



GUNS & The 701

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To: ND Senate State and Local Government Committee – Chairman Roers

From: Clayton Pederson

Retired National Rifle Association Sr. Field Representative ND/SD

GUNS & The 701 co-founder

Subject: SCR 4027 – Do Not Pass Testimony

Chairman Roers and members of the Committee, I am writing today as I am unable to be there in person to testify in opposition of SCR 4027. Anytime we present changes to our ND State Constitution we need to be thorough and cautious as the ND State Constitution is the basis of all of our RIGHTS as citizens. It also should NEVER be used as a function to harbor emotional reactions or as a tool to silence freedom of speech or mechanisms of that speech through any kind of entity, organization, private citizens who form as one voice, or anything that gives the people a voice in THEIR self governance.

This is exactly what SCR 4027 will do. It is playing on the emotions of the people as they view raffles (gambling really) or games of chance from a perspective that doesn't or may not completely align with their personal feelings on that activity that is used by so many groups/organizations in the state of ND as a way to compete with "big money", giving a voice to those that don't have thousands and thousands of or sometimes even millions of dollars to participate in the free exercise of their speech, charitable actions, or anything else that give We The People a voice in ND policies/actions.

Raffles, gun raffles in particular, are a popular and very successful fundraising mechanism used across a broad spectrum of the state of North Dakota, in everything from church, sports, advocate, charitable, EMS, fraternal, and party organizations.

These raffle provide the very important funding sources that are a BENEFIT to so many people in a variety of movements including a grassroots voice from "We The People" in North Dakota through our political parties at the closest level of that structure, the Districts within where we live. It provides the necessary funding for us to actually be able to choose those people we wish to have represent us on ballots with a united voice, which should not be silenced within our State Constitution. I would contend it is a purer form of representation through monetary support than other forms, and even equalizes the "playing field" for every day ordinary residents in North Dakota, especially in the arena of big money donors from PACs and outside donors trying to influence our state.

I also believe the way this is written, it will have unintentional consequences for all organizations, especially the 2nd Amendment organizations who have used these raffles to help raise money to protect this absolute RIGHT. Many organizations don't have a primary functional to operate in a political arena, that is just a fact, they do so to essentially "make things better". There are times though, for example, that an organization will see a candidate, state measure, legislative bill, or county ordinance, etc., that will be an infringement on our rights, or detrimental to the goals of the organization or even