



NDSA-10-2021

A Resolution in Opposition of HB 1289

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

WHEREAS, the right of all eligible voters to vote in federal, state, and local elections is an integral aspect of fulfilling one's civic duties as an American citizen, and as a citizen of their state and local governments; and,

WHEREAS, HB 1289¹ proposes changing the definition of a qualified elector in North Dakota to an individual who has lived in the state for a year and who has resided in the precinct they would be voting in for 90 days; and,

WHEREAS, the current guidelines for voting require an individual to live in North Dakota with proof of address and to have resided in their voting precinct for 30 days; and,

WHEREAS, this bill would disproportionately and negatively impact any college students who have moved to North Dakota to pursue their education, and bar many who are establishing residency during an election year, by preventing them from being able to exercise their right to vote; and,

WHEREAS, students in higher education are citizens of their state and local communities, and their participation in the voting process is integral in their voices being heard; and,

WHEREAS, according to the North Dakota University System's (NDUS) Fall 2020 Enrollment² report, only 54.45% of our higher education students are from North Dakota; and,

WHEREAS, implementation of this bill could potentially prevent 45% of new NDUS higher education students who no longer live in another state nor hold an address in that previous state from voting in federal elections, in addition to state and local elections; and,

WHEREAS, this bill disenfranchises students and creates barriers to voting within our state and nation, where we pride ourselves on "free and fair" elections; and,

WHEREAS, North Dakota's voter turnout has increased in the past two elections cycles, a trend that would be inhibited if HB1289 were to be implemented; and,

¹ <https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/67-2021/documents/21-0401-03000.pdf>

² <https://ndus.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2020/11/2020-Fall-Enrollment.pdf>



WHEREAS, The North Dakota Student Association seeks to encourage all students to use their voices on campus and in their communities to promote better student life and to teach them skills beyond the classroom such as practicing civic engagement; and,

WHEREAS, HB 1289 would reduce the number of students that would be eligible to vote after moving to attend a University in North Dakota; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Dakota Students Association opposes HB 1289 as it unfairly disenfranchises the student population and their right to engage in their civic duty of voting in federal, state, and local elections.

Approved by the NDSA General Assembly on Saturday, January 30th, 2021.