



NDSA-11-2021

A Resolution in Support of HB 1447

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, HB 1447¹, has been submitted to the North Dakota legislature; and,

WHEREAS, this bill would require NDUS institutions to add students' date of birth and residential address to their student identification card; and,

WHEREAS, this bill would also allow NDUS students to use this new university photo identification card as a valid form of ID when verifying eligibility as an elector; and,

WHEREAS, all eligible voters should have the right to vote without barriers; and,

WHEREAS, the requirements to vote in North Dakota are, to have a valid form of identification that states one's date of birth, address, and legal name; and,

WHEREAS, as the rules for identification currently exist, if a student's form of identification - which must be issued by the state of North Dakota - does not list their current residential address, they can supplement it with, "a current utility bill; a current bank statement; a check or a document issued by a federal, state, local, or tribal government; or a paycheck"²; and

WHEREAS, a majority of first-year students live in on-campus housing where it is difficult to get a proof of residency like a utility bill; and,

WHEREAS, all university students are eligible voters who deserve the right to vote in the state and communities in which they attend school; and,

WHEREAS, the NDSA encourages students to engage in their communities and practice civic engagement, whether they are voting in North Dakota or in a home state where they have maintained residency; and,

WHEREAS, the NDSA has historically supported the creation of student identification cards that would allow them to vote in North Dakota elections with ease; and,

WHEREAS, the NDSA recognizes that there are security concerns surrounding the inclusion of a students' address and birth date on their student identification card; so,

¹ <https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/67-2021/documents/21-0967-01000.pdf>

² <https://vote.nd.gov/civics101.aspx?ptlhPKID=126&ptIPKID=7>



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NDSA would like HB 1447 to be amended to allow students the choice of whether or not they'd like to include their address and date of birth on their student ID for voting purposes; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Dakota Students Association supports HB 1447, pending the aforementioned change, and its intent to allow student voters to participate in federal, state, and local elections by using their student identification cards as a valid form of ID.

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