

Senate State Affairs Committee

February 27, 2023

Re: HB 1200

I am testifying in opposition to HB 1200. In my opinion, this proposed new requirement would in effect make the initiative process impossible in our state.

I am a fourth generation South Dakotan and a lifelong Republican. I have been involved in a few initiatives in the past decade. I have found that getting an initiative on the ballot is hard, very hard. Anyone who thinks otherwise has likely not been involved in the process. But they apparently want to make it even harder.

South Dakota keeps losing initiative restriction cases in court. The most recent was earlier this month in the SD Voice ruling handed down by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals.

I suspect this new requirement would eventually suffer the same fate if it were enacted. I don't see that it furthers a valid state interest, at least not enough to justify the degree to which it infringes on citizens' constitutional rights. And it could significantly increase the administrative burden on those charged with validating signatures.

Please do what you can to put a stop to this unreasonable proposal.

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