



April 24, 2017,

Via E-Mail

Office of Governor Burgum
600 East Boulevard Ave
Bismarck ND, 58505-0001

Dear Governor Burgum:

On behalf of Project Vote, I am writing to respectfully request that you veto HB 1369. This bill has been introduced amid the federal lawsuit over the state's voter ID laws, but fails to bring North Dakota's photo ID laws into compliance with a federal judge's 2016 ruling.

Project Vote is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to realizing the promise of American democracy so that every eligible citizen can register, vote, and cast a ballot that counts. This law will deter otherwise-eligible voters from going to the polls. The impact of the "solution" to the phantom problem of voter impersonation is not negligible; millions of dollars must be devoted to implementation, free IDs, and voter education. While photo ID exacts a steep financial cost, disenfranchising our most vulnerable citizens takes an incalculable toll on democracy.

This bill fails to address the objections raised by U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland. "It is clear that a safety net is needed for those voters who simply cannot obtain a qualifying voter ID with reasonable effort," Judge Hovland wrote. Not every resident has such an ID; and moreover, disproportionately high numbers of American Indians lack one.

HB 1369 will only cause more confusion for voters and higher expenses for the state. Vetoing this bill will save the taxpayers money, and save the state from another potential lawsuit.

To protect the rights of eligible North Dakota voters, Project Vote urges you to veto HB 1369. Should you wish to contact me regarding this bill, please contact me, or our legislative director, Marissa Liebling, at mliebling@projectvote.org or 202-556-5651.

Sincerely,

Amy Busefink
Deputy Director
Project Vote
abusefink@projectvote.org
202-903-1728

1420 K Street NW • 7THFloor • Washington, DC. 20005
(202) 546-4173 T • (202) 733-4762 F • www.projectvote.org