

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Committee:

I am Sandy Sidler, the North Dakota State Regent of the North Dakota State Society Daughters of the America Revolution. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a service group of women who can trace their ancestor to service and support during the American Revolution. Personally I have several ancestors who either fought the British, provided supplies or signed an oath of allegiance to the new country. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded in 1890 and has welcomed over 1 million members since then with there being over 185,000 members currently. The North Dakota Society was founded over 100 years ago and currently has over 200 members. One of whom is a member of the House Legislature. There are five chapters in North Dakota; Fargo, Bismarck, Grand Forks, Minot and Devils Lake. The U.S. Congress has established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to plan for 2026. Their vision is “To engage all Americans in what will be the largest and most inclusive celebration and commemoration in our nation's history.” To achieve this the commission has developed 3 themes: To Educate, to engage, and to Unite. More information and a list of participating members and organizations can be found on their website www.America250.org

I'd like to clarify a detail included in the bill.

Item 4.c. Refers to a replica of the Liberty Bell. According to the State Historical Society in 1950 replicas of the Liberty Bell were gifted to each state. North Dakota's bell toured the state on a flatbed truck and then was displayed in the State Capitol from 1952- 1982. It was later displayed at Century High School in Bismarck from 2001-2015. Currently it is in a storage facility.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the National Society Sons of the American Revolution are just 2 of the many groups that support this Commemorative Event.

The 250th anniversary of the United States of America is a great Commemorative Event. House Bill 1285 has been introduced by Representatives Boschee, P.Anderson, Dobervich, Kasper and M. Rudy and Senators Dever, Marcellais and Oban. We encourage the passage of House Bill 1285. I welcome any questions