

Chairman Vedaa and members of the committee:

My name is Sandy Sidler and I am the North Dakota State Regent of the North Dakota State Society Daughters of the American Revolution. I am writing in support of House Bill 1285. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a service organization 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 the 250th anniversary in 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. Currently 11 states have joined the America 250 commission. More states are working on developing commissions. More information and a list of participating members and organizations can be found on their website www.America250.org

I would like to clarify a couple of details 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. Item 4.d. (which was struck from the original bill) referred to a DAR America 250 Patriots Marker. The DAR has set a goal of placing at least one marker in every state in advance of the Nation's 250th anniversary.

This commission would investigate a location to display these two items. The 250th anniversary of the United States of America is a great Commemorative Event.

Senators Dever, Marsellais and Oban have introduced this bill. We encourage the passage of House Bill 1285.