

Good afternoon, Chairman Schauer and members of the GVA Committee. For the record, my name is Greg Stemen, State Representative in District 27. My district includes a portion of South Fargo as well as the communities of Horace, Oxbow, Hickson and the rural agricultural area to the southern edge of Cass County.

I stand before you today to introduce House Bill 1250 on behalf of the North Dakota Department of Veteran's Affairs. This bill allows for the addition of Designated Electronic Communication in addition to or instead of Certified Mail when notifying an individual that he/she has been refused veterans preference. From the standpoint of technological advancement, it is becoming more effective to utilize electronic communications while not necessarily replacing Certified Mail. It simply provides an additional option. The definition of "Designated electronic communication" is also added to statute.

We are hoping House Bill 1250 allows the notification process to become more streamlined and up to date. At this time, I would like to ask Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner of North Dakota Department of Veteran's Affairs, to step to the podium to go into the details of the bill and then stand for questions.

Thank you, Mr. Chair and committee members.