

Testimony in favor of HB 1504 to direct 50% of the gaming tax paid by Veteran Service Organizations to the Post War Trust Fund or the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs grant program.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Nate Huntington, from Bismarck, ND.

I am submitting testimony in favor of HB 1504 to direct gaming tax funds raised on Veteran Service Organizations' gaming to the Trust Fund so that the taxes raised on veterans will benefit veterans.

I am a veteran, a member of the American Legion Department of North Dakota (for which I am a registered Lobbyist), and a member of the Marine Corps Association Detachment 1419 in Mandan.

As a military veteran, and as a Department representing veterans, I (and we) believe that it is essential for you to allocate funds to the Post War Trust Fund. Directing tax money raised on the gaming of Veterans Service Organizations is logical and it ensures that the funds are available to support veterans and the organizations that serve them.

It is important to add funds to the Trust so that the interest income will grow because it is the interest income that supports the programs which provide services to our veterans. Your action to pass HB 1504 will provide sustainable interest earning capability for the Trust Fund, perpetuating the availability of grants and services for vulnerable ND veterans and their dependents, including the prevention of veteran homelessness.

We support HB 1504.

Thank you.