

Chairman Kasper and members of the Committee:

I am Kirstin Carlson, the America250! North Dakota Chairperson for the Daughters of the America Revolution (DAR). The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is a service group of women who can trace their ancestor to service in the American Revolution.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was founded in 1890 and has welcomed over 1 million members since then with over 185,000 members currently. Today, the DAR is service group of women strongly committed to promoting American patriotism, preserving American history and securing American's future through better education. The North Dakota Society was founded over 100 years ago and currently has over 200 members. There are five chapters in North Dakota; Fargo, Bismarck, Grand Forks, Minot and Devils Lake. I have witnessed firsthand, and been inspired by the generosity, dedication and commitment our North Dakota DAR women who volunteer for the veterans of North Dakota, work to preserve, educate and promote our state and national history as well as represent North Dakota at a National level. I am often left feeling humbled to be associated with this group by the amazing work they do for the love of America and this state.

In 2016, the U.S. Congress established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission to plan for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States in 2026. Eight members of congress, 16 private citizen and 9 federal officials including the Secretary of State, Librarian of Congress and Archivist of the United States comprise the committee roster. Our DAR Honorary President General Lynn Forney Young has been appointed a seat on this national commission. The Daughters of the American Revolution is honored to be represented on this prestigious Commission with a mission so closely aligned with the National Society's founding principles. 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](http://www.America250.org) In keeping with this national representation, if HB 1285 bill is passed, I encourage you to consider having a North Dakota DAR member part of the state committee.

The 250th anniversary of the United States of America is a great Commemorative Event and North Dakota will want to mark this anniversary. As a band educator with Fargo Public Schools, I am excited that North Dakota could potentially lay a path to create memorable events and lasting tributes in the form of special events, education, commissions of music, artwork, etc. to this historic celebration!

House Bill 1285 has been introduced by Representatives Boschee, P.Anderson,Dobervich, Kasper and M. Rudy. This bill will be relating to a new commission to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of The United States of America. We encourage the passage of House Bill 1285.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirstin Carlson