

March 11, 2021  
Senate Transportation Committee  
HB 1435  
Sen. Vedaa, Chair

For the record, I am Stephanie Dassinger. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Chiefs of Police Association of North Dakota. I am also the deputy director and attorney for the North Dakota League of Cities.

The Chiefs of Police express strong support for HB 1435 and thank Representative Ista for bringing this bill forward. HB 1435 provides health insurance coverage, under the NDPERS plan, for the spouse and dependents of a law enforcement officer or a firefighter who dies in the line of duty at no cost to a political subdivision and no cost to the spouse and the dependents.

Brave law enforcement officers put their lives on the line everyday when they respond to calls for service and walk into uncertain situations to protect the public. Fortunately, in North Dakota, the instances where law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty have been rare. However, when it does happen, it creates a great burden for the fallen officer's surviving family who often relies on the law enforcement officer's employee benefits for health insurance. HB 1435 is a way that those families can be supported if the unthinkable happens.

The Chiefs of Police Association of North Dakota respectfully requests a Do Pass recommendation on HB 1435.

Thank you for your consideration.