

To: House Human Services Committee

Purpose: Support HB 1458

Committee members,

***Disclaimer – I am speaking for myself, and my views do not represent the military or any other military member or any other organization. ***

I support HB 1458 because as a divorced father who provides health insurance for his son, and pays child support, I know how unfair our current system is.

Currently, if your employer provides health insurance for “free” as part of your compensation package, then you do not get a credit towards your child support for providing insurance to your child, which can be hundreds of dollars a month.

Conversely, if I was not providing health insurance for my child, I would be paying more in child support. **I hope the problem with this law is clear.**

Despite providing healthcare for my son, I am still being charged the level of child support as if I was NOT providing health insurance. I am being penalized for having good benefits from my employer. Even though those benefits benefit my child.

I am being treated, by ND child support laws, as though I am not providing health insurance for my child. This needs to change.

This affects thousands of mostly men in the state of ND. This isn't only a private sector problem, when employers provide health insurance as part of the employees compensation, this also affects people such as me, a military member who receive Tricare.

As a full time military member, I receive “free” health insurance and therefore pay MORE in child support despite providing health insurance for my son. I am, as a military member, being treated by the law, as if I am not paying for my son's healthcare. This is not only unfair, it also increases my child support obligation.

I ask you to vote in favor of this small but important change to ND child support laws.

Tony