

Testimony in Support of SB 2223 - January 18th, 2023

I am a current member of the Grand Forks AFB School Board (District 140). I believe that this board and other base boards in the state of North Dakota would benefit from the passing of this bill.

Our board is currently limited to applicants who reside on the installation. With the base offering a finite number of on-base homes, housing is often at full capacity and many incoming military members are unable to live on-base. This restricts District 140 to a small pool of applicants, which has historically made it difficult to maintain a full board. Many off-base residents, with ties to both District 140 and District 1, are interested in serving, but are disqualified.

The mobile nature of the military also leads to an unstable board, with constant turnover. On-base residents are prone to regular moves and deployments, cutting their term short. Having the option to include retirees and their spouses on the board would provide much needed continuity.

I greatly appreciate you all considering this bill and the impact it can have on the children of our military communities.