

Greetings Madam Chair and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

My name is Austen Schauer representing District 13 in West Fargo.

In front of you is **House Bill 1142** which, if passed, would **expand eligible uses** for charitable gaming net proceeds.

The intent is to allow gaming revenue generated at the local **VSO** posts (Veteran Service Organizations) to be donated to **any VSO** at the State level.

The donations can be used to help pay office supplies, utilities, travel, and compensation of employees who are currently covered by membership dues.

The problem is membership funds are **declining** because of the rapid loss of members from old age and death.

The **State department** VSOs assists and supports veteran and family member services, programs, and events.

It also includes helping veterans gain **access** to VA benefits and services.

There is no cost to the state general fund or any other fiscal note.

For our veterans, we encourage a **DO PASS** on **House Bill 1142**.

And we would respectfully request an **Emergency Clause** to this bill to get the financial help to veterans as quickly as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and committee members.