



**NORTH DAKOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
RECRUITING AND RETENTION BATTALION
4150 MIRIAM AVENUE
BISMARCK, ND 58506-5511**

20 March 2025

SUBJECT: Support for Senate Bill 2019

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

As Commander of the North Dakota Army National Guard Recruiting Commander, I write to you in support of SB 2019 and its intended support of virtual career education and exploration. As a current partner with the North Dakota Public Instruction and the Center for Distance Education (CDE), the North Dakota Army National Guard's ability to reach out to tomorrow's leaders today is vitally important for the future defense of our state and nation.

With declining connection to service members, the ability to for the National Guard to provide an understanding of the role the National Guard plays in our communities is an opportunity gone underutilized.

Integrating the National Guard into the Choice Ready framework and the potential of the Military Pathway courses offered via the CDE, the ability to reach the next generation of leaders through virtual means will create the opportunity for all students within the North Dakota Education system to gain an initial understanding of potential experience that awaits them as future members of the National Guard.

Expanding the virtual experience to all students with opportunities at their disposal, Military Pathway, and Choice Ready framework, all North Dakota students will understand the opportunities the National Guard can provide them, as well the importance of service to the state and nation.

I respectfully request your consideration in supporting the funding to enhance the virtual expansion to all North Dakota students and strengthen the National Guard.

Thank you for your time and service to the great State of North Dakota. If you have any further questions, I can be reached at 701-426-8607, or email chance.d.schaffner.mil@army.mil.

CHANCE D. SCHAFFNER
LTC, EN, NDARNG
Commanding