

North Dakota House of Representatives

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Representative Jeremy Olson

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COMMITTEES: Finance and Taxation

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, I am Jeremy Olson, State Representative, District 26, representing most of McKenzie and Dunn Counties. I am the prime sponsor for HB 1169 as part of the Military and Veteran's Caucus goal of protecting the benefits and quality of life for our active-duty members and veterans in North Dakota. The goal of HB 1169 is to protect our disabled veterans from predatory practices of some organizations whose business model is to assist disabled veterans to receive disability compensation but use unethical methods against the veteran for this service.

There are respectable organizations who truly do good work to help our disabled veteran community, as well as our local Veteran Service Officers, as they navigate the often-complex system of the Veteran's Affairs disability claims system. We want to retain the good ones and restrict the predatory ones. The main provisions of HB 1169 ensure that the veteran is protected from predatory practices of excessive fees, improper access to private information, and making misleading guarantees of success. In short, this bill adds many more protections to the disabled veteran seeking these services against tactics that some non-reputable groups currently employ.

The proponents following me can give you a more granular perspective of the challenges and solutions that HB 1169. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jeremy L Olson MBA, CSP

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