

HB 1315

House Government and Veteran Affairs

I am in support of HB 1315

My name is Gordon Greenstein. I enlisted in the US Navy in 1973 and enlisted in the North Dakota National Guard in 1982. I am a Viet Nam Era Veteran. I am not a combat veteran, but my role as a First Sergeant was to train my soldiers to be combat ready. I have seen the devastation and the human toll over my 30 years in the military because of the Undeclared Wars.

Every day 22 soldiers take their lives because of undeclared wars and because of the inability of Congress to sit down and debate the declaration of war.

Discarding this constitutional first principle that helped forgo the backbone of our own republic has resulted in grave consequences. Thousands of Americans lives have been lost in unnecessary foreign conflicts, devastating our military families while fatiguing our country's defenses-all while draining trillions from the pockets of taxpayers.

In the U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8, the militia is also addressed-specifically in Clauses 15 and 16. These same clauses are the basis for the formation of the National Guard even emphasizes this fact in their charter. Clause 15 delegates to the Congress the power for the calling forth of the militia (National Guard) in three situations: To execute the laws of the union, to suppress insurrections, and to repel invasions.

This bill is a necessary step to realign the Government of North Dakota and the Federal Government back to the U.S. Constitution. It is state-level legislation to prohibit the overseas deployment of the state's National Guard units without a Congressional declaration of war.

I urge a Do Pass on HB 1315. Thank You Gordon Greenstein

