



North Dakota House of Representatives

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COMMITTEES:

Human Services (Chair)
Energy and Natural Resources

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Good afternoon Representative Rohr and Human Services Committee,

My name is Matt Ruby and I represent District 40 in Minot. I bring HB 1338 which would require Human Service Zones to determine the military status of an individual is that individual's child is the subject of child abuse or neglect. If that individual is a military member, the zone shall notify the nearest military facility's Family Advocacy Program. The Family Advocacy Program provides clinical and nonclinical services to prevent and respond to child and domestic abuse. Some of the benefits of this program are supports for new parents, response to reports, and they can connect you with resources. There are some areas of the state that have existing Memorandums of Understanding with military installations, and this would help the Department of Defense get access to the reports regarding instances of child abuse and neglect involving military family members. These reports are used for data collection that is used to tailor the trainings and program as well as justify funding for the Family Advocacy Program. I hope the committee will agree with the benefits of this bill and give it a favorable recommendation. I am happy to stand for questions.