



North Dakota House of Representatives

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Good Morning Chairman Ruby and Transportation committee,

My name is Matt Ruby, and I represent District 40 in Minot. Before you today is HB 1432 which would add a new license plate design for family members of the military who died while on duty but not in a combat zone. If a military member dies while in a combat zone, they would qualify for a Gold Star plate and there are different benefits associated with that program. This military sacrifice plate would cover those who die while deployed in support of the border mission or state active duty or if they are any other type of orders. One aspect I want to point out is that someone who is killed while in the act of a crime wouldn't qualify for this.

When I first got working on this bill and was figuring out how this would work, we intended to narrow who could get one of these plates and provide it for free. During the draft process I was given a few different options of ways we could do this. I know the usual temperament of the legislative body about giving out a free license plate so we decided to offer this license plate at the usual cost you have when you license your vehicle. We also chose to put it in line with the Gold Star Plate and the Purple Heart plate which means someone who gets this plate doesn't pay an additional amount for a custom plate and they can customize the letters without any upcharge.

I do want to offer two amendments. The first is to authorize the Department of Veteran Affairs to receive the applications and review the situation to authorize this plate. This is the same process used for the Gold Star program and the Purple Heart plate. The second amendment I would offer is to remove "or a motorcycle". This is a request from the DOT because motorcycle license plates can't have these customizations now due to their size. I appreciate your consideration on HB 1432 and ask for your support.