

**Senate Education Committee**  
**67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**  
**Senator Donald Schaible-Chair**

Chairman Schaible and Senate Education Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1107. The NDCC current language does not allow for military service members, veterans' and dependents in states other than ND to be eligible for In-State (resident) Tuition rates. ND has many border cities with individuals seeking higher education. This bill will...

- Provide ND Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) a better ability to compete with (IHL) in other states.
- Attract more out of state students to ND IHL.
- Improve ND military and veteran friendly ranking (important in base retention)
- Meet the Department of Defense's (DOD) Defense State Liaison (DSL) Office top ten issues.
- Comply with new Federal Regulations Passed in January of this year in HR 7105 and now part of Public Law 116-315 (Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020)

Include as resident student for tuition purposes...

- Member, spouse and dependents of National Guard and Reserve in any state
- Member, spouse and dependents of active-duty armed forces in any state
- Dependent of veteran regardless of GI Bill eligibility
  - Post 9-11 GI Bill resident rate required to comply with new Federal GI Bill regulations. Addressed 64<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly (2015) HB 1127. Other chapters of GI Bill not addressed.

## **Origination of HB 1107:**

### **Military Academic Affairs Council (MAAC)**

**Established** by ND Department of Veterans Affairs (NDDVA) Commissioner in 2010 as a Veterans Education Advisory Committee to the Commissioner and Chancellor.

#### **Members:**

- ND Department of Veterans Affairs
- ND Chancellors Office
- State Approving Agency Director (GI Bill)
- ND National Guard Education Officers
- Air Force Education Officers
- Job Service ND Veteran Employment Services
- Institutes of Higher Learning Certifying Officials (State and Independent)

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between ND University System and ND Department of Veterans Affairs signed by NDDVA Commissioner and NDUS Chancellor in 2015

1. Appointment of a Military Affairs Council to address the issues veterans face when returning to Academia.
2. Provide college and university staff and faculty training on veterans who face re-integration issues or mental/behavior health challenges which can affect their performance in school, work, and relationships.
3. Create a standardized system that can evaluate and award credit for life experiences and military classes.
4. *Actively market to out of state veterans to attend North Dakota universities and colleges.*
5. Identify potential veterans as they apply for admissions and provide greater educational guidance.
6. Provide assistance to veterans attending ND colleges and universities as well as veterans and their dependents who may be eligible for various educational benefits.

### **HB 1107 Supports the DOD DSL Top Ten Key Issues for 2021 and Task Force MIND Initiatives**

#### **Department of Defense (DOD) Defense State Liaison Office (DSL)**

**Background:** The Defense-State Liaison Office works with state policymakers to change laws and policies to improve military family well-being. The DSLO focuses on 10 key issues. For each issue, the Military State Policy Source website provides background information, official DOD data and status updates on relevant information across states.

**Purpose:** Many issues impacting the well-being of service members and their families are best addressed by state governments. In 2004, the undersecretary of defense for Personnel and Readiness established an outreach program through the DSLO to educate state policymakers on unintended barriers created by state policies and other issues important to military families.

**Track Record:** DSLO has assisted state policymakers to enact more than 700 bills since 2012 covering occupational licensure, employment protection, consumer protection, family law, childcare, child protection, voting, education, health care, and state judicial systems.

The 2021 Key Issues (Top 10):

**# 8: *In-State Tuition Continuity***

**Task Force M.I.N.D. (Military Issues in North Dakota)**

Active and Reserve Armed Forces, State Agencies, Civic Leaders and Stakeholder in North Dakota working to discuss, and develop initiatives focused on improving the quality of life for our Active Duty, Guard and Reserve service members and their families.

**Members Include:**

- **ND Governor's Office**
- **ND National Guard Army and Air Force**
- **US Air Force: Minot AFB, Grand Forks AFB**
- **ND Reserve: Army, Marines, Navy**
- **ND Department of Veterans Affairs**

TFMIND meeting July 28, 2020: **Initiative #6 In-state tuition rates.**

Thank you for your consideration.  
Lonnie Wangen-NDDVA Commissioner.