



FMWF Chamber Support for SB 2293

March 15th, 2023

Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee:

For the record, my name is Katherine Grindberg, and I have the pleasure of serving as the Executive Vice President of the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo (FMWF) Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's mission is to be a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity for businesses, members, and the greater community. On behalf of our over 1,900 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2293 as it relates to the attraction and retention of military personnel.

Workforce is a major challenge facing every employer across this great state and our nation's military is not exempt from these challenges. Our local units have seen firsthand the challenges of attracting and retaining talented individuals in the current employment market. As you may know, every state is evaluating its budgets, regulations, and taxes to create a more competitive environment in hopes to fill the numerous job openings.

Simply put, this bill would expand the existing tax credit to include military pay for members of the armed forces of the United States on federal active duty, member of the national guard, or reserve member of the armed forces of the United States. This is extremely beneficial for communities like ours with military bases that border a neighboring state, as we compete to attract military personnel. Our state must continue to find creative solutions the keep North Dakota competitive and enhance our ability to attract and retain highly skilled military personnel. Senate Bill 2293 does exactly that by expanding opportunities and incentivizing the men and women that serve our state and nation to remain or relocate to North Dakota.

On behalf of our members, I would like to thank committee members for their time this morning and would urge a DO PASS recommendation.

Respectfully,

Katherine Grindberg
Executive Vice President
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