

**House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**  
**Representative Schauer-Chair**

Chairman Schauer and House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1212

**Intent of this bill:**

Allow certain surviving spouses of a veteran who died of service-connected injuries or illnesses to be eligible for current ND benefits if the veteran have lived longer

- Tuition waiver NDCC 15-10-18.3
- Motor vehicle license plate NDCC 39-04-18 (2)(j)
- Property tax credit NDCC 57-02-08.8
- Vehicle excise tax NDCC 57-40.3-04

Allow 100% disabled veterans and surviving spouse who are eligible for DAV license plate an option to pay for a specialty or vanity license plate. (amendment).

**Need for bill:**

- Service connected presumptives have been added after death of veteran from that presumptive injury or illness. Example “Blue Water Navy”.
- Veterans and service members sometimes die before a service connection or rating is completed by Federal VA
  - If a veteran had lived long enough to gain this eligibility and applied for the benefits the surviving spouse would have been eligible
- VA determines eligibility for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for surviving spouse.
  - To include eligibility if re-married by a certain age

**Outcome**

- The surviving spouse, which were the intention of the above benefits, will now have clear eligibility.
- Clear language for ND agencies to utilize in determining eligibility
- VA DIC letter utilized to prove eligibility
  - Federal VA verify eligibility

**Fiscal Note:**

- Very small fiscal note expected

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA