

**House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
 68th Legislative Session
 Representative Schauer -Chair**

Chairman Schauer and House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1326.

Intent of this bill...

Suicide Prevention among Veterans

- Allow ND Department of Veterans Affairs access to the death records of ND Resident Veterans and Military members.
 - Records can be reviewed for patterns or opportunities to target prevention measures.

Need for bill...

- The national average for veteran & military suicides have been at 22 per day. Current research shows that that number has dropped to 20. Many states are taking targeted action.
- ND Veteran Suicides. Source: ND Vital Records

Death Year	Under 35	AGE 35 TO 54	AGE 55+	Total
2017	11	10	10	31
2018	6	5	9	20
2019	5	6	11	22
2020	8	9	12	29
2021	5	3	12	20
2022	5	8	6	19
Total	40	41	60	141

Organizations working to prevent ND Veteran Suicides:

- Governor’s Challenge
- ND HOPES (HHealthcare, Oppportunity, Prevention, and Education in Suicide prevention)
- ND CARES
- Cass Clay Suicide Review Commission
- VA Suicide Prevention Program

Outcome of Bill...

- Reduce suicide among ND Veterans with “Targeted” suicide prevention.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA