

**Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**  
**Senator Luick-Chair**

Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1193

**Intent of this bill:**

Allow National Guard and Reserve employed by ND State and political subdivisions to utilize military leave for any military service.

**Need for bill:**

- National guard & Reserve training has increasingly been including Friday drills
- Many members drive several hours to get to their assigned military service location
- Support for national guard missions sometime requires extra duty day
- Missed or additional drill periods or can and many times are made up during regular workdays
- State and political subdivision employees may be scheduled to work on weekends or evenings
- Employees/military members should be able to determine which military time periods they wish to utilize their military leave
- National Guard and Reserve play an important role in protecting and serving ND and has increased over the last 2 decades placing more stress on its members personal, military and employment lives. Flexibility is important to address their needs

**Outcome**

- Improved flexibility and ability for employees to participate in National Guard and Reserve
- Improved recruiting and retention of Guard and Reserve members
- Improved recruiting and retention of state and political subdivision employees
- Improved working schedule and flexibility of employees
- Reduced unpaid, missed or unexcused absences in employment and military service
- Improve ability for employers to approve military leave absences. Less calls to Lonnie

**Fiscal Note:**

- None

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA