



MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

March 1, 2023

**Chairman Donald Schaible**  
**Chair, Senate Education Committee**

**Remarks of**  
**Michelle Richart**  
**Midwest Regional Liaison**  
**United States Department of Defense-State Liaison Office**

**Support of: HB1132 – A Bill relating to virtual instruction of military-connected students;  
relating to compulsory school attendance**

### **Testimony**

The Department of Defense is grateful for the opportunity to support policy changes proposed in North Dakota HB1132, A Bill relating to virtual instruction of military-connected students; relating to compulsory school attendance.

My name is Michelle Richart and I am the Midwest Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. We represent the Department and work with state leaders across the country who are concerned for troops and their families' welfare by harmonizing state and federal law and regulation on policy problems of national significance. These are identified by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments, and the National Guard Bureau as areas where states can play a crucial role.

Virtual school enrollment for military-connected children has been a priority for the Department for several years. As our military members and their families move from state to state, educational stability for military children is of utmost importance. As an active duty military spouse myself and the parent of two elementary-aged children, I can affirm that the adoption of this policy would greatly reduce the stress of a military move. Policies such as those reflected in HB1132 help reduce one of the many unique challenges that military families encounter when they face a military move.

In closing, we are grateful for the tremendous efforts that North Dakota has historically taken to support our military members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to support the provisions reflected in HB1132. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Very Respectfully,

**MICHELLE RICHART**  
Midwest Regional Liaison  
Defense-State Liaison Office