

AMVETS Post #7 Fargo, North Dakota

HB 1504

February 2, 2025

Submitted by Rick Olek, Vietnam combat veteran, gaming chair for Jon. A. Greenley AMVET Post #7 Fargo, ND

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee, My name is Richard Olek, I am a Vietnam combat veteran, ARMY 1971-1972, retired city letter carrier who walked the streets of Fargo for 32 years and now volunteer my time to AMVET Post 7 in Fargo and the Fargo V.A. hospital.

Thank You for the opportunity to testify today. I testify today in strong support of HB1504.

This bill HB1504 will help our VETERANS in need. This bill will provide our Department of Veteran Affairs the funds to help my fellow VETERANS .

As a veteran who has walked the streets of Fargo and spends a lot of time with fellow VETERANS I see and hear the need of my fellow veterans. Many fear hunger, living expenses and homelessness. With the passing of HB1504 we can do some good for our veterans.

I serve as the gaming chairman for the house board at AMVETS POST 7 in Fargo . I review our quarterly gaming tax return done by our gaming manager. HB 1504 gives the State of North Dakota the opportunity to direct that portion of tax brought in by veterans organizations back to helping VETERANS in need.

The members and guests who use our veteran organization clubs are supporters of veterans. HB1504 is another way that the dollars they spend in gaming goes back to the veterans they came to support.

HB 1504 is not a tax increase or decrease. If passed it would just allocate 50% of those tax dollars brought in by veterans organizations (AMVETS, AMERICAN LEGION, VFW ) to the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs grant program and 50% to the Post War Trust Fund.

In closing as a combat, purple heart veteran I ask for your support for veterans with a DO PASS on HB1504.

Thank You

Veteran Rick Olek