

**2025 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HB 1315**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1315  
1/24/2025

Relating to the deployment of the North Dakota national guard; and to declare an emergency.

8:32 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Return to the Constitution
- Response time
- State differences
- National guardsmen accessibility.
- Federal funds.

8:32 a.m. Representative Heilman, District 7, introduced the bill and submitted testimony, #31357.

8:39 a.m. Representative Olson, District 26, testified in opposition and submitted testimony, #30554.

8:44 a.m. Dan McKnight, Chairman, Bring Our Troops Home, Inc, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #31155.

8:48 a.m. Brig. General Mitch Johnson, Adjutant General of the North Dakota National Guard, testified in opposition and submitted testimony, #31279.

8:59 a.m. General Dorman, Governor's Office, testified in opposition.

### **Additional written testimony:**

Bret Weiland submitted testimony in favor, #30896.

Gordon Greenstein submitted testimony in favor, #31036.

Steven Hoikkala, Chairman of the National Guard Association of North Dakota, submitted testimony in opposition, #31169.

Murray Sagsveen submitted testimony in opposition, #31224.

Cale Dunwoody, Vice President of Public Policy of the FMWF Chamber of Commerce, submitted testimony in opposition, #31233.

Chris Martens, Attorney Advisor of the North Dakota National Guard, submitted testimony in opposition, #31255.

9:09 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee  
HB 1315  
January 24, 2025  
Page 2

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Representative Jeremy Olson

District 26  
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## COMMITTEES:

Finance and Taxation  
Energy and Natural Resources

House Majority Caucus Leader

17 January 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Government and Veteran Affairs Committee, I am Jeremy Olson, State Representative, District 26, representing most of McKenzie and Dunn Counties. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I stand before you to urge the rejection of the "Defend the Guard" proposed legislation of HB 1315. While the intentions behind this bill may be rooted in concern for our national sovereignty and the protection of our service members, it is my belief that the bill is fundamentally flawed and would have unintended negative consequences for both our national defense and the veterans who have served this country honorably.

### Impact on National Defense and Readiness

First and foremost, HB 1315 bill seeks to restrict state National Guard units from being deployed to overseas military operations. On the surface, this may seem like an effort to safeguard the interests of states and their citizens, but in practice, it could severely hamper our military's ability to respond to national security threats quickly and effectively.

Our military, particularly the National Guard, plays a vital role in a wide range of operations, from natural disaster relief to combat missions overseas. National Guard units are often called upon to supplement the active-duty military during times of crisis, ensuring that we have the necessary resources and manpower to defend our nation. By requiring state legislatures to approve overseas deployments, this bill creates unnecessary delays and bureaucratic hurdles in situations that demand immediate action.

In times of emergency—whether a natural disaster, an international conflict, or a terrorist attack—decisions need to be made swiftly, without the constraints of political gridlock. A delay in sending our National Guard troops could cost lives and undermine our readiness to protect this nation.

### Constitutional and Legal Concerns

This legislation may also raise serious constitutional and legal questions. The U.S. Constitution grants the federal government the power to raise and support armies and to provide for the common defense of the nation. While the National Guard is indeed a state-based institution, its federal mission is equally vital. The federal government, in partnership with the states, ensures that the Guard can function both locally and abroad as necessary.

Requiring state legislatures to approve every overseas deployment could create a patchwork approach to military readiness, where some states may authorize deployments while others do not. This could ultimately undermine the cohesion and effectiveness of the National Guard as a force, creating a situation where the federal government and state governments are at odds over how to respond to national security threats.

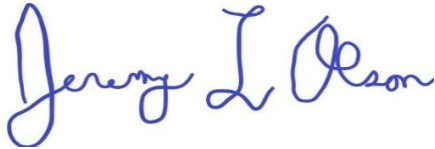
Moreover, HB 1315 could provoke legal challenges that would tie up resources, divert attention from critical issues, and, most importantly, distract us from our overall national security priorities.

In conclusion, while HB 1315 may stem from a desire to protect the rights of states and their National Guard units, its potential risks to national security, legal stability, and the well-being of our veterans far outweigh any benefits. Our primary responsibility as policymakers is to ensure the safety and security of our nation, and this bill stands to undermine that mission.

I respectfully ask this committee to reject HB 1315 and to work toward solutions that prioritize the readiness and cohesion of our military while respecting the vital contributions of our National Guard members.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeremy L Olson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Jeremy L Olson MBA, CSP

ND House of Representatives, District 26

House Republican Caucus Leader

[jolson@ndlegis.gov](mailto:jolson@ndlegis.gov)

701-651-7486

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Committee of the Government and Veterans Affairs:

My name is Bret Weiland and I am submitting this in-favor testimony for HB 1315 "Defend the Guard" in writing as I am unable to appear in person to give oral testimony on the day of this hearing.

I am urging a DO-PASS vote from the members of this committee. The reasons why I am urging a DO-PASS recommendation are as follows:

1. The Constitution of the United States specifically gives the federal Congress the power to declare war under Article 1 Section 8. There has been no declaration of war made by Congress in accordance with Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution since the United States joined World War II. This means that in every conflict the United States has been starting from the Korean War through to today, our soldiers have fought and died in undeclared wars overseas.
2. It is a devastating, abhorrent overreach of the Federal Government to summon a State's National Guard soldiers into service of the Federal Government without a Congressional Declaration of War. This is made even more apparent when past Governors of our State have signed off on releasing our State's Guardsmen into Federal service.
3. Since 2003, Fourteen (14) soldiers who honorably served in the North Dakota National Guard have made the ultimate sacrifice to their country and their state. These are 14 soldiers who may very well be alive and would be with their families today if North Dakota had enacted this kind of legislation years ago.
4. The 10th Amendment of the United States Constitution grants "states rights" to the several States in order that our State may govern our own affairs. This Defend the Guard legislation uses the 10th Amendment to nullify federal overreach and requires Congress to do their job in declaring war the correct, Constitutional way.
5. There is nothing preventing our Guardsmen from transferring out of the National Guard into active service if those guardsmen truly wish to be deployed overseas. Their service is always appreciated in whatever form it takes.
6. Our state's National Guardsmen belong here at home in our communities, and more importantly, with their loved ones. When called, they should be so that they can assist our (or neighboring) communities during difficult times. We have a real life example of this when hurricane Milton tore through the southeast part of our nation. The National Guard of those affected states are best suited to respond to these domestic emergencies, rather than being deployed overseas.

In closing, I wish to remind our legislators and those who have served that you swore to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. You will fulfill this oath by giving this legislation Do Pass recommendation, as well as passing this bill into law. I thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

HB 1315

House Government and Veteran Affairs

I am in support of HB 1315

My name is Gordon Greenstein. I enlisted in the US Navy in 1973 and enlisted in the North Dakota National Guard in 1982. I am a Viet Nam Era Veteran. I am not a combat veteran, but my role as a First Sergeant was to train my soldiers to be combat ready. I have seen the devastation and the human toll over my 30 years in the military because of the Undeclared Wars.

Every day 22 soldiers take their lives because of undeclared wars and because of the inability of Congress to sit down and debate the declaration of war.

Discarding this constitutional first principle that helped forgo the backbone of our own republic has resulted in grave consequences. Thousands of Americans lives have been lost in unnecessary foreign conflicts, devastating our military families while fatiguing our country's defenses-all while draining trillions from the pockets of taxpayers.

In the U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8, the militia is also addressed- specifically in Clauses 15 and 16. These same clauses are the basis for the formation of the National Guard even emphasizes this fact in their charter. Clause 15 delegates to the Congress the power for the calling forth of the militia (National Guard) in three situations: To execute the laws of the union, to suppress insurrections, and to repel invasions.

This bill is a necessary step to realign the Government of North Dakota and the Federal Government back to the U.S. Constitution. It is state-level legislation to prohibit the overseas deployment of the state's National Guard units without a Congressional declaration of war.

I urge a Do Pass on HB 1315. Thank You Gordon Greenstein

## **Testimony in Support of North Dakota's Defend the Guard Act**

*Presented by Dan McKnight, Chairman of Bring Our Troops Home and National Sponsor of Defend the Guard Legislation*

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in support of the Defend the Guard Act. My name is Dan McKnight. I'm a 13-year military veteran, Chairman of Bring Our Troops Home, and an advocate for protecting our National Guard and upholding the Constitution.

This legislation has received national attention and widespread support from leaders who recognize its importance. When the New Hampshire House of Representatives passed Defend the Guard, Pete Hegseth, the Secretary of Defense nominee, reported on Fox News and said, *"I love this idea."* His support didn't stop there.

Last month, I met with Pete Hegseth in West Palm Beach, Florida, to discuss Defend the Guard. When I asked for his thoughts on the legislation, he again said, without hesitation, *"I love this idea."* He asked what he could do to help. Hegseth understands the value of this legislation—not only for its constitutional fidelity but also for the protection it provides to the men and women of the National Guard. When I explained the opposition we've encountered, namely thinly veiled threats of loss of federal funding by 1 and 2 star generals representing the National Guard Bureau, he was baffled and asked, *"What could possibly be the argument against a bill that ensures the National Guard is only deployed when Congress fulfills its constitutional duty?"*

His words are a powerful reminder: this bill is not radical—it's a return to the principles our nation was founded on. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution clearly gives Congress—not the president—the authority to declare war. Yet, for decades, presidents of both parties have ignored this, using the National Guard in conflicts Congress never authorized.

One stark example is the Syrian Civil War. In 2013, President Obama asked Congress to authorize military action in Syria, and Congress said no. Yet, the administration moved forward anyway, citing the Afghanistan 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force—meant to target the perpetrators of 9/11—to justify American involvement in Syria. At the beginning of the Syrian Civil War, less than 3% of U.S. forces deployed were National Guard members. By the war's conclusion in 2024, after the fall of the Assad regime, 58% of the U.S. troops involved were National Guard. These were ordinary Americans—teachers, firefighters, and small business owners—sent to fight in an undeclared war Congress never approved.

This misuse of our National Guard must end. That's why Defend the Guard has earned the support of leaders like Pete Hegseth, Senators Rand Paul and Tim Sheehy, Congressmen Thomas Massie and Paul Gosar, and others, including Tulsi Gabbard and Vivek Ramaswamy. They all agree: no war should begin without the consent of the American people through their elected representatives.

Passing this bill will make North Dakota a leader in standing for the Constitution, for our National Guard, and against the dangerous precedent of endless, undeclared wars.

I urge you to join Secretary Hegseth, myself, and countless others in defending the Guard and protecting the men and women who serve this state.

Thank you.



## **National Guard Association of North Dakota (NGAND) North Dakota National Guard Enlisted Association (NDNGEA)**

Chairperson Schauer and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs,

On behalf of the North Dakota National Guard Officer (NGAND) and Enlisted Associations (NDNGEA), I thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 1315, commonly known as the "Defend the Guard" bill, but the ramifications of this bill being passed results in it being known among many in the National Guard as "Defund the Guard". We are state associations that are also tied to our national associations which are the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) for the officer association, and the Enlisted Association of the United States (EANGUS) for our enlisted Soldiers and Airmen. This legislation would require a formal congressional declaration of war before the North Dakota National Guard could be mobilized for federal missions. While we understand and respect the intent behind this bill to preserve constitutional principles, we firmly believe its enactment would have significant unintended consequences for the readiness, effectiveness, and national security role of the North Dakota National Guard.

### **1. Undermining National Guard Readiness and Responsiveness**

The National Guard operates as a critical component of our nation's defense and as a ready reserve force for the U.S. Army and Air Force. Requiring a formal declaration of war for federal mobilization would severely restrict our ability to respond to emergent threats and crises. Modern conflicts rarely involve formal declarations of war, yet the need for rapid deployment to support national defense objectives, humanitarian missions, and disaster response remains constant. HB 1315 would place unnecessary constraints on this responsiveness, potentially jeopardizing lives and national security.

### **2. Impact on the Guard's Dual State and Federal Mission**

The National Guard's unique dual mission allows us to serve both state and federal needs. Over the years, North Dakota Guardsmen have answered the call during state emergencies such as floods and wildfires, while also deploying overseas to support federal missions. The proposed legislation could create a legal and operational conflict, hampering our ability to seamlessly transition between these roles. Such restrictions could diminish North Dakota's role in the broader National Guard network, isolating our state from vital national resources and opportunities. Passing this bill would have a cost to the state of over \$214M in pay and allowances only. This does not include federal dollars allocated for equipment.

### **3. Erosion of Federal Support and Opportunities for Service Members**

Federal funding and resources for the National Guard are closely tied to its integration within the broader Department of Defense structure. Imposing conditions on federal mobilization

could jeopardize this relationship, leading to reduced funding for equipment, training, and facilities. This would directly impact the readiness and morale of our service members. Moreover, it could limit career development opportunities for North Dakota Guardsmen, as many of these arise from participation in federal missions.

#### **4. Constitutional and Legal Concerns**

While HB 1315 aims to uphold constitutional principles, it may inadvertently conflict with established federal authority over the National Guard. The Constitution and federal laws, such as the National Defense Act, grant the federal government the authority to mobilize the Guard for national defense purposes. Enacting HB 1315 could lead to legal challenges and uncertainty, further complicating the Guard's ability to operate effectively.

#### **5. The Human Element**

At the heart of this issue are the men and women who serve in the North Dakota National Guard. They have volunteered to serve both their state and nation, knowing they may be called upon to deploy in support of national objectives. By imposing additional barriers to federal mobilization, HB 1315 could undermine their sense of purpose and the trust they place in the system that governs their service.

In conclusion, while we respect the intent of HB 1315 to ensure accountability in the use of military forces, our state associations and members strongly believe this legislation would have adverse effects on the North Dakota National Guard's readiness, effectiveness, and ability to fulfill its dual state and federal missions. Our national associations do not support any current iterations of the Defend the Guard legislation that has been introduced at a state or federal level. We urge the members of this committee to oppose this bill and preserve the operational flexibility and integrity of the North Dakota National Guard.

Thank you for your time and attention. We are happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

*Steven Hoikkala*  
Steven Hoikkala  
NGAND Chairman  
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*Shane Amundson*  
Shane Amundson  
NDNGEA President  
[shane.amundson@gmail.com](mailto:shane.amundson@gmail.com)

## **House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee**

### **Testimony by MG Murray G. Sagsveen (NDARNG Ret.) Opposing House Bill 1315**

**January 24, 2025**

Chair Schauer and members of the Committee. I am Murray Sagsveen, a former member of the North Dakota Army National Guard, personally testifying in opposition to House Bill 1315.

I enlisted in the Army in 1968. During Basic and Advanced Infantry Training, there were three categories of training soldiers: soldiers who enlisted were always at the head of lines (especially at the mess hall), soldiers who were drafted were placed in the middle of lines, and soldiers in the National Guard were always relegated to the end of the lines. It was my experience that active Army personnel, from the drill sergeant to the company commander did not respect members of the National Guard.

Shortly after arriving in the Republic of Korea in late 1968, I was assigned to a military intelligence unit until I was discharged from active duty in January 1971.

Later in 1971, I received a reserve direct commission in military intelligence and joined the North Dakota Army National Guard. In 1973, after graduating from the UND School of Law, I was assigned to judge advocate positions in combat engineer units and the state headquarters. In 1996, I was promoted to brigadier general and assigned as the Army National Guard Special Assistant to the Judge Advocate General of the Army, which was the senior judge advocate position in the Army National Guard.

In 1997 and 2011, I was recalled to state active duty as a state major general and the State Flood Recovery Coordinator for the Red River and Souris River floods.

Accordingly, my military career spanned more than four decades, which offered me an opportunity to observe the evolution of the Army National Guard from an organization that trained and trained (but was seldom called to active duty) to a superbly trained, combat ready, essential component of the U.S. Army. The Air National Guard is similarly an essential component of the U.S. Air Force.

Now, the U.S. Army and Air Force rely on the Army and Air National Guard to accomplish their assigned missions. Last year, General Daniel R. Hokanson, Chief, National Guard Bureau, provided this testimony to a House subcommittee:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense, on A Review of the President's FY2025 Funding Request and Budget Justification for the National Guard and Reserve, April 30, 2024.

In 2023 alone, the National Guard served the equivalent of nearly 16 million days. This included more than nine million days overseas supporting Combatant Commanders, conducting peacekeeping missions, and deterring strategic competitors and adversaries. Meanwhile, our Guardsmen, in both Federal and state duty statuses, conducted homeland defense operations, held training exercises, and responded to disaster events in the 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia. National Guardsmen saved 476 lives, distributed hundreds of thousands of meals and bottles of water, and cleared more than 1,500 miles of roadway in response to disasters. Whether it's at the request of the Combatant Commanders or our Nation's governors, we have never missed a mission.

I have also personally observed the importance of "citizen soldiers" in the volunteer military. During the "draft years," civilians continually passed through the Army, especially in the lower enlisted ranks. With the transition to the all-volunteer Army, that influx of non-career soldiers ceased. Now, with the integration of Army National Guard units with deploying Army units, active Army personnel and citizen soldiers are again serving side-by-side, which (in my opinion) benefits both the full-time soldier and the Army National Guard citizen soldier. Army National Guard members - who may live in Fargo/West Fargo, Jamestown, Grand Forks, Warwick, Bismarck/Mandan, Dickinson, or Minot – bring community wisdom, civilian skills, and North Dakota common sense to the U.S. Armed Forces.

To summarize, this country's armed forces depend on the National Guard to provide for the defense and national security of our homeland and allies

Finally, there are many U.S. constitutional and federal law reasons why this Committee should vote a "do not pass" recommendation, as will be explained by others, such as Rep. Olson, who plan to testify. Essentially, federal laws now grant substantial authority to the president, as commander-in-chief, to mobilize and deploy the military, including the National Guard, when deemed necessary for national security purposes. No state may frustrate that authority.

Murray G. Sagsveen  
1277 Eagle Crest Loop  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
mgsagsveen@gmail.com



### Letter in Opposition – HB 1315

Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chairman Schauer and members of the House Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee,

My name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in opposition to House Bill 1315.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. The North Dakota National Guard is a tremendous asset to our state and nation. Our local units are nationally renowned for their leadership, excellence, and execution of critical missions at local, national, and global levels. Whether responding to floods in the Red River Valley, flying F-16s over our nation's capital, supporting efforts against COVID-19, or providing assistance at our southern border, the North Dakota National Guard is always ready to respond to the call of duty, no matter the challenge.

The North Dakota Air National Guard's 119th Wing, located in Fargo, exemplifies this leadership and excellence. It is one of twelve Air National Guard Wings that operate the MQ-9 aircraft, and is responsible for precision attack and reconnaissance, kinetic, and non-kinetic target intelligence production, and expeditionary support capabilities for the nation and state. The North Dakota National Guard plays a crucial role in our nation's defense, and fostering an environment that enhances military excellence is essential.

Considering the vital importance of our local units, such the 119<sup>th</sup> Wing, we strongly oppose HB 1315 as it could hinder the 119th Wing's ability to execute critical federal missions and potentially reduce federal investment in vital military infrastructure. As this 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly considers this legislation, we respectfully urge this committee to swiftly recommend a DO NOT PASS for HB 1315 to preserve our states military excellence and support national security.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody  
Vice President of Public Policy  
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce

TESTIMONY OF  
BRIGADIER GENERAL MITCH JOHNSON  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD  
BEFORE  
HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
24 JANUARY 2025  
HOUSE BILL 1315

Good morning, Chairman Schauer, members of the committee, I am Brigadier General Mitch Johnson, Adjutant General of the North Dakota National Guard. I am here today to testify in opposition to HB 1315.

Our United States Military is a Total Force made up of the Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserves. The National Guard is the primary combat reserve of the Army and Air Force. As Adjutant General, my main mission is to ensure the United States, and the State of North Dakota, have a trained and ready force. I have over 1000 federally funded full time employees who help me organize, train, and equip your men and women of the North Dakota National Guard. Additionally, I have hundreds of millions of dollars of federal equipment for our federal mission sets.

If HB 1315 were to pass, North Dakota would become the only state where the federal government can no longer access the Guard unless congress passed a declaration of war. With this restriction in place, I would struggle to justify why missions, and equipment should not be moved to other states that are willing to support the national defense mission. Additionally, I expect that a significant number of guardsmen would leave North Dakota and join units in neighboring states or join the Reserves, because my guardsmen want to do their missions. For the guardsmen I would have left, I would expect to receive little to no funding for exercises and training. In a very short amount of time, I would expect to struggle with recruiting, morale, funding, and readiness. In my opinion this is an unjustifiable risk, especially when you consider that Congress has continued to lawfully carry out its war powers under the Constitution since World War II, even if it was not through a "formal" declaration of war.

Currently, your North Dakota National Guard is viewed with respect across our state and nation. I have guardsmen that are nationally recognized as leaders in their career fields and who are an example of how to do things right...the North Dakota Way. The support we receive from the North Dakota legislature ensures the state receives the full benefit of the approximate \$115 million in federal funds each biennium. This represents tremendous return on investment for both the Department of Defense and North Dakota. They receive well trained military units ready to carry out our national defense mission. The state receives an economic impact of over \$660 million, and more importantly, the benefit of 4100 professional Soldiers and Airmen from 200 North Dakota communities, all ready to serve our state during times of need. Your legislation and support have helped make that possible. I ask for your support again.

This concludes my testimony, and I stand for any questions.

TESTIMONY OF  
BRIGADIER GENERAL MITCH JOHNSON  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD  
BEFORE  
HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
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This concludes my testimony, and I stand for any questions.



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
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## Representative Matthew Heilman

District 7  
5501 Flatrock Drive  
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## COMMITTEES:

Education  
Political Subdivisions

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chairman Schauer and members of the GVA committee,

I am Representative Matt Heilman from North Dakota's seventh legislative district. I am here today to testify in favor of HB 1315. This bill is to help bring us back to our constitutional foundation. Unless Congress exercises their constitutional authority under clause 15 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, the North Dakota National Guard may not be deployed into active duty combat. This bill would not restrict the ability of the governor to deploy the national guard for civil authority missions. HB 1315 not only addresses the abandonment of the U.S. Constitution, but also addresses the issue of endless wars, and the sanctity of life

The last constitutional war was World War II. In 1950, President Harry Truman deployed soldiers to fight in Korea. He sought no declaration of war from Congress and claimed the United Nations empowered him to engage in "police actions" unaccountable to the people's representatives. Over 36,000 GIs died in Korea. During the Korean War the legislature of North Dakota passed a resolution demanding that Congress act to bring all troops and military personnel home from the peninsula and end the fighting. Governor Norman Brunsdale also demanded a withdrawal of military recruiters from our state. My great uncle fought and died in the Korean War at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. My grandpa who passed away about four years ago now also served in the Korean War.

This type of legislation has been supported by many notable people including Director of National Intelligence nominee Tulsi Gabbard, Secretary of health and human services nominee RFK Jr., U.S. Senator Rand Paul, U.S. Senator Tim

Sheehy, and Congressman Thomas Massie. One of the biggest supporters of this legislation is current Secretary of Defense nominee Pete Hegseth. This legislation has been introduced in multiple states and has been passed in one chamber in Idaho, Arizona, and New Hampshire.

I included an attachment of all the North Dakota National Guard members who have died since 2001. This is a real issue where our people are dying, and for what? Fourteen souls have left this world and many of these people were around my age when they died. The justification for the invasion of Iraq was that they had weapons of mass destruction, and we all know that ended up being not true. Eight of the fourteen members from North Dakota died in Iraq. The United States spent 20 years in Afghanistan until President Biden pulled out all troops. What did North Dakota or our National Guard benefit from these wars? Did the families and loved ones of the fourteen people below benefit?

President Dwight Eisenhower warned against the military industrial complex in his farewell address saying "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist." I also believe that if this legislation is passed the recruitment in the National Guard will increase. People can sign up knowing that they won't have to fight in unconstitutional wars.

You'll hear many opposing legal arguments, but the fact of the matter is that the U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land. One of the other main arguments will be around money and losing federal funding. You'll notice that there is no fiscal note attached at all to this bill. I don't see in any world where our military is defunded. It would be incredibly unpopular as we saw with the movement recently to defund the police. Even if there was a loss of federal funding, is that money worth losing the lives of our fellow North Dakotans?

Name	Rank	Date of death	Age at time of death	Cause of death
Jon P. Fettig	Specialist	7/22/03	30	Died when his Heavy Expanded-Mobility Tactical Truck was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade outside of Ramadi, Iraq
Kenneth W. Hendrickson	Staff Sergeant	1/24/04	41	Died when his convoy was attacked by an improvised explosive device north of Fallujah, Iraq
Keith L. Smette	Sergeant	1/24/04	25	Died when his convoy was attacked by an improved explosive devise north of Fallujah, Iraq
Philip D. Brown	Specialist	5/8/04	21	Died in Balad, Iraq, from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated west of Samarra, Iraq
James J. Holmes	Specialist	5/8/04	28	Died in Landstuhl, Germany, from injuries sustained on May 3 in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near the driver side of his military vehicle
Lance J. Koenig	Staff Sergeant	9/22/04	33	Died when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was conducting a dismounted patrol in Tikrit, Iraq
Cody L. Wentz	Specialist	11/4/04	21	Died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle while he was on patrol in Iraq
Michael L. Hermanson	Specialist	5/23/06	21	Died of injuries sustained when his RG-31 Mine Protected Vehicle came under attack from an improvised explosive device, a rocket-propelled grenade, and enemy small-arms fire while on a route-clearing mission in Abayachi, Iraq
Travis A. Van Zoest	Sergeant	6/6/06	21	Died when his Humvee struck two anti-tank mines during combat operations in Khogyani, Afghanistan
Curtis R. Mehrer	Corporal	6/6/06	21	Died when his Humvee struck two anti-tank mines during combat operations in Khogyani, Afghanistan
Nathan J. Goodiron	Corporal	11/23/06	25	Died of injuries sustained when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using small-arms fire and rocket propelled grenade in Qarabagh, Afghanistan
Christopher K. Kleinwachter	Corporal	11/30/06	29	Died of injuries sustained when his vehicle rolled over during combat operations in Ghazni, Afghanistan
Darren M. Linde	Sergeant First Class	12/3/12	41	Died in southern Afghanistan of wounds sustained by an improvised explosive device
Tyler J. Orgaard	Specialist	12/3/12	20	Died in southern Afghanistan of wounds sustained by an improvised explosive device

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1315  
1/24/2025

Relating to the deployment of the North Dakota national guard; and to declare an emergency.
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10:43 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff  
Absent member: Representative Karls

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee work

10:43 a.m. Vice Chairman Satrom moved Do Not Pass.

10:43 a.m. Representative Christy seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Collette Brown	Y
Representative Josh Christy	Y
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	AB
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	N
Representative Lori VanWinkle	N
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	N

10:44 a.m. Motion passed 11-2-1

Representative Vetter will carry the bill.

10:45 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1315 ([25.0015.01000](#))**

**Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (11 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1315 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.