

**2025 HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES**

**HB 1338**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1338  
1/21/2025

Relating to a determination by the department of health and human services of an individual's military status in child abuse and neglect allegations.

2:12 p.m. Chairman Rohr opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman M.Ruby, Representatives Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Davis, Fegley, Hendrix, Holle, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Members Absent: Vice-Chairman Frelich, Representative Dobervich

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Family Advocacy Program.
- Parental status of military members.
- Suggested amendments for the definition of military status.
- Potential reactions of the Family Advocacy Program.

2:13 p.m. Representative M. Ruby, District 40, introduced the bill and submitted testimony, #30545.

2:14 p.m. Michelle Richart, Defense State Liaison of the Department of Defense testified in favor and submitted testimony, #29795.

2:22 p.m. Lieutenant Colonel Jay Sheldon, Administrator of the North Dakota Military Commission, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #30416.

2:25 p.m. Kimberly Jacobson, Director of the Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #30331, #30332.

2:40 p.m. Lieutenant Colonel Jay Sheldon, Administrator of the North Dakota Military Commission, testified in favor and answered questions.

2:43 p.m. Chairman Rohr closed the hearing.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## **Representative Matthew Ruby**

District 40  
1400 Golden Valley Lane  
Minot, ND 58703-1192  
[mruby@ndlegis.gov](mailto:mruby@ndlegis.gov)

## **COMMITTEES:**

Human Services (Chair)  
Energy and Natural Resources

21 January 2025

Good afternoon Representative Rohr and Human Services Committee,

My name is Matt Ruby and I represent District 40 in Minot. I bring HB 1338 which would require Human Service Zones to determine the military status of an individual is that individual's child is the subject of child abuse or neglect. If that individual is a military member, the zone shall notify the nearest military facility's Family Advocacy Program. The Family Advocacy Program provides clinical and nonclinical services to prevent and respond to child and domestic abuse. Some of the benefits of this program are supports for new parents, response to reports, and they can connect you with resources. There are some areas of the state that have existing Memorandums of Understanding with military installations, and this would help the Department of Defense get access to the reports regarding instances of child abuse and neglect involving military family members. These reports are used for data collection that is used to tailor the trainings and program as well as justify funding for the Family Advocacy Program. I hope the committee will agree with the benefits of this bill and give it a favorable recommendation. I am happy to stand for questions.



MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

**January 21, 2025**

**Chairman Matthew Ruby**  
**Chair, House Human Services Committee**

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

**Support of: HB1338 – Relating to a determination by the department of health and human services of an individual's military status in child abuse and neglect allegations.**

**Testimony**

Chairman Ruby and honorable members of the House Human Services Committee, the Department of Defense is grateful for the opportunity to support the policies reflected in HB1338, an act relating to child abuse and neglect, and hopes that North Dakota will join the 35 other states that have passed similar legislation on this issue. Even one child's life is worth this effort.

My name is Michelle Richart. I am the Midwest Regional Liaison at the DoD-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

We represent the Department and establish relationships 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.

The DoD relies on working in collaboration with state and local governments to fulfill its statutory obligation to address child abuse and neglect.

Particularly for those that do not know the military way of life, unlike civilian employers, the military services have the obligation to know what is happening with our service members and families. Being a service member is not a nine to five job. Information sharing between the Department of Defense and local authorities must be accomplished at the start of a child abuse or neglect investigation, not after adjudication.

HB1338 allows the reporting of child abuse to the appropriate military installation when the child is a military family member. This law ensures efforts to determine the military status of parents subject to abuse or neglect allegation, assists families as they seek medical and counseling services through the military installation, and sets forth minimum requirements for information sharing between DoD and state and local authorities.

The Secretary of Defense is required under Section 1787 of Title 10 of the US Code to coordinate with civilian child welfare to obtain information on allegations of child abuse and neglect involving children in military families. To meet this statutory obligation the Department of Defense established the Family Advocacy Program, or “FAP”, to address prevention of and response to child abuse and neglect involving children in military families.

The military’s FAP is formally created by Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6400.01, wherein section 3, the FAP incorporates prevention, education, and training efforts to make all personnel aware of the scope of child abuse and neglect, domestic abuse, and problematic sexual behavior in children and youth, as well as to facilitate collaborative and cooperative efforts. The federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, or “CAPTA” designates the FAP as a federal entity subject to the requirement to protect children from abuse and neglect.

CAPTA further requires that a state such as North Dakota has in effect, and is enforcing a State law, or has in effect and is operating a statewide program relating to child abuse and neglect that includes “*provisions to require a State to disclose confidential information to any Federal, State, or local government entity, or any agent of such entity, that has a need for such information in order to carry out its responsibilities under law to protect children from child abuse and neglect*”, and “*the cooperation of State law enforcement officials, court of competent jurisdiction, and appropriate State agencies providing human services in the investigation, assessment, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse and neglect.*”

To effectuate these state-federal information sharing mandates, DoDI 6400.01 directs the military services to establish memoranda of understanding with state and local child welfare services to collaborate on the oversight of cases involving military families.

Currently in North Dakota, the present framework relies on individualized, local MOUs to guarantee communication between Child and Family Services and the military community.

DoD respectfully submits North Dakota can assist the DoD mission to protect military children and other youth from abuse and neglect by enacting the policies set forth in HB1388, which will require (1) child welfare case workers to ask clients if they are associated with the military, and (2) provide them the authority to share this information with the appropriate military authorities, which facilitates a more consistent and authoritative approach to collaborative oversight.

Seventy percent of military families live off a military installation and in our communities and so are likely to fall under the jurisdiction of state and local agencies. The military services have investigative, intervention, and rehabilitative support resources that can assist local child welfare system in addressing allegations and provide follow-up family counseling when they have knowledge of an allegation.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Defense appreciates your recognition of the important relationship between the state and local child protective services and the associated military FAP offices in responding and providing support and services to address child abuse in military families.

This is not a military law enforcement matter. This is a victim advocacy measure to protect our most vulnerable.

In closing, let me say that we are grateful for the tremendous effort that North Dakota has historically given in supporting our service members and their families. On behalf of the Department of Defense, we urge a Do Pass recommendation on HB1338.

Very Respectfully,

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

TESTIMONY OF  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAY SHELDON  
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD  
BEFORE THE  
HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
21 JANUARY 2023  
HOUSE BILL 1338

Chair Ruby and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jay Sheldon, administrator of the North Dakota Military Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1338. This legislation represents a step in strengthening the coordination between state child protective services (CPS) and military Family Advocacy Programs (FAP) to ensure the safety and well-being of military families and children.

Federal law requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to request state reports regarding instances of child abuse and neglect involving military family members. House Bill 1338 aligns with this requirement by establishing a process for identifying military status in child abuse and neglect allegations and ensuring pertinent information is shared with the appropriate military authorities.

This legislation is necessary because approximately 70% of military families live off military installations and are an integral part of our communities. Without clear statutory authority, local CPS agencies policies for identifying military families and collaborating with military protective and rehabilitative services may not occur or be delayed.

By requiring CPS to identify military families at the onset of their investigations and share case information with military Family Advocacy Programs, North Dakota can help protect victims, enhance coordination, and complement federal responsibility.

Military families contribute significantly to our communities, often facing unique stresses such as frequent relocations, deployments, and separations. It is our collective responsibility to support these families and ensure that children in military households receive the same level of protection and care as all children in North Dakota.

House Bill 1338 provides an opportunity to solidify a bridge between state and military systems, creating a safety net for military families and helping them access the resources they need. I ask your support for HB 1338.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

# Who Does What in Child Welfare?

## ROLES IN NORTH DAKOTA'S HUMAN SERVICE SYSTEM

### HUMAN SERVICE ZONES (HSZ) TEAM MEMBERS

#### *Child Protection Services*

*(CPS) Workers:* Provide protective services for children under age 18, including child protection assessments in response to reports of suspected child abuse or neglect and follow-up services to families.

#### *CPS Central Intake Unit:*

*(Statewide HSZ team)* Is the intake point for reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. Collects facts and provides details to CPS workers at the local HSZ level.

#### *Child Welfare/CPS Supervisor:*

Supervise and support child welfare staff in HSZs.

#### *Foster Care Case Manager:*

Manages case and is main point of contact for child, parents and foster care provider. *Child is not in the home.*

#### *Child Welfare Case Manager:*

*(Also called Family/In-Home/ Wrap-around/Family Preservation Case Manager)* Focuses on internal family stability, parental capacities, and identifying needed supports and services. *Child is in the home.*

#### *Family Support/Parent Aide:*

*(Also called Human Service Aide /Transportation Aide)* Assist parents in building parental capacities and skills to maintain

or reunify child with family. Not located in all HSZs. Some only provide transportation to support child and family connections and visits. ■

### ND HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS) TEAM

#### *Foster Care Licensing Specialist:*

Recruits, supports, guides and assesses foster parents through the licensing and renewal process. Works in the HHS Children and Family Services (CFS) Licensing Unit.

#### *Field Service Specialist:*

Monitors fidelity and quality of work related to the Safety Framework child welfare practice model and ND policy, in addition to providing technical assistance to the foster care, child protection and in-home case management units within the Human Service Zones and Division of Juvenile Services (DJS). Is employed by HHS – CFS. ■

### Other Non-Child Welfare Support to Families

#### *Children in Need of Services*

*(CHINS):* HSZ team connects families and children (whose behaviors include truancy, disobeying parents, running away and/ or using tobacco products) to local services.

[hhs.nd.gov/cfs](https://hhs.nd.gov/cfs)

### OTHER INFORMATION

#### ☆ OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT:

- Legal authority to remove a child is authorized by Juvenile Court or Law Enforcement and affirmed by the Courts.
- Deprivation matters are brought forth by the HSZ CPS workers to the removing authorities.
- Out-of-home placements could occur with relatives, kinship care, foster homes, therapeutic foster homes, or QRTP/PRTFs.

#### CUSTODIAL AGENCY:

In ND, foster children are placed under the public custody of three public agencies:

- *Human Service Zones:* ND's 19 Human Service Zones that represent 53 counties serve the greatest volume of foster children in ND's foster care system.
- *Division of Juvenile Services*
- *Tribal Social Services:* North Dakota has a formal State-Tribal Title IV-E agreement with four Tribal Nations: Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Spirit Lake Nation, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and MHA Nation.

#### GUARDIAN AD LITEM:

Appointed by the court to advocate for the best interests of a child in a juvenile court proceeding.



Testimony Prepared for the  
**House Human Services Committee**

January 21, 2025

By: Kim Jacobson, Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone Director

**RE: HB 1338: Military status in child abuse and neglect allegations**

Chair Ruby, and members of the House Human Services Committee, my name is Kim Jacobson. I serve as the Director of Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone, which includes the counties of Traill and Steele. Additionally, I serve as President of the North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association. I am here today to testify in support of HB 1338 with consideration of amendment.

Human Service Zones are the legal designee of the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) to perform an array of human service duties. This includes the intake, assessment, and determination of suspected child abuse and neglect reports. As a state supervised, locally administered system, there is a team of dedicated professionals, at both the Human Service Zone and NDHHS level that work together to deliver, supervise, and oversee child protective services (CPS). For your reference, I have included "Who Does What in Child Welfare?" information sheet. This tool includes a high-level overview of duties and responsibilities related to CPS. The starred items highlight North Dakota's CPS team.

Currently, there are memorandums of understanding in place between Human Service Zones that are located near military bases. This includes Grand Forks and Ward Human Service Zones. The memorandums outline similar expectations included in HB 1338 and already include notice to the Air Force family advocacy program when a report of suspected child abuse or neglect is identified as having affiliation with military members assigned to the installation. The existing agreements are more specific and clarify roles and expectations.

The North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association reviewed HB 1338. Questions arose regarding roles, intent, and scope of the proposed bill. For example, what

does the term “military status” include? Is the intent to include all branches of the military including Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, Space Force, and National Guard? Does this apply to active duty, reserve forces, and retired individuals? If this law is implemented, does a nearest military installation’s family advocacy program have authority to serve all military branches or are there different entities that should be notified? Does the family advocacy program have authority over spouses who are not enlisted but are alleged offenders, or subjects, living on or off an installation? What can our CPS teams expect of the military installation’s family advocacy program upon notification of the child abuse and neglect allegations? What is the military installation’s family advocacy program’s intended role? Would this change legal designee roles as detailed in the “Who Does What in Child Welfare” document?

Lastly, I offer consideration if the continuation of local memorandum of understandings between North Dakota-based military bases and bordering Human Service Zones would serve as a better option and more nimble process for serving military families than a statewide law. If a statewide law is desired, it could direct NDHHS to work with Human Service Zones and military family advocacy programs to develop mutually agreeable memorandums of understanding and processes so that statewide impact and training could be achieved.

To assist the committee in your discussion, I offer potential amendment to HB 1338:

Line 7: The department shall determine the military status of an individual at the initiation  
Line 8: of a child abuse and neglect assessment. If the department determines an allegation of  
Line 9: abuse or neglect involves a military-affiliated individual who is in active or reserve duty  
Line 10: status, the department shall notify the nearest military installation’s family advocacy  
Line 11: program of the allegation and assessment.  
Line 12: The military installation shall maintain responsibility for reporting data to the federal  
Line 13: Department of Defense.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony regarding House Bill 1338. I stand for questions from the committee.

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1338  
2/12/2025

relating to a determination by the department of health and human services of an individual's military status in child abuse and neglect allegations.
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9:33 a.m. Chairman M. Ruby opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Ruby, Vice-Chairman Frelich, Representatives Anderson, Beltz, Bolinske, Dobervich, Fegley, Holle, Kiefert, Rios, Rohr

Members Absent: Representatives Davis, Hendrix

### Discussion Topics:

- Proposed amendments relating to responsibilities and definitions

9:36 a.m. Representative Dobervich moved to amend the bill relating to responsibilities and definitions, LC#25.1060.01002, #44164.

9:36 a.m. Representative Beltz seconded the motion.

9:37 a.m. Voice Vote passed.

9:37 a.m. Representative Dobervich moved a Do Pass as amended.

9:37 a.m. Representative Bolinske seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Karen Anderson	Y
Representative Mike Beltz	Y
Representative Macy Bolinske	Y
Representative Jayme Davis	AB
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Cleyton Fegley	Y
Representative Jared Hendrix	AB
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Dwight Kiefert	Y
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y

9:38 a.m. Motion passed 11-0-2.

Representative Beltz will carry the bill.

Chairman M. Ruby closed the meeting.

*Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk*

February 12, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1338**

Introduced by

Representatives M. Ruby, Beltz, Bolinske, J. Olson, D. Johnston, Klemm

Senators Bekkedahl, Dever, Lee, Roers, Wobbema

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 50-25.1-05 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to a determination by the department of health and human  
3 services of an individual's military status in child abuse and neglect allegations assessments.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new subsection to section 50-25.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 The department shall determine the military status of ~~an~~any individual subject to an  
8 assessment, ~~within a reasonable amount of time, if the individual's child is the~~  
9 ~~subject~~at the initiation of ~~an~~a child abuse or neglect ~~allegation~~assessment. If the  
10 department determines an allegation of abuse or neglect involves a military-affiliated  
11 individual, the department shall notify the nearest military installation's family advocacy  
12 program of the allegation and investigation. The military installation is responsible for  
13 reporting data to the federal department of defense. The department may develop a  
14 memorandum of understanding for use by the human service zone. For purposes of  
15 this subsection:

16 a. "Military affiliated individual" means an individual with an active military status  
17 and the individual's dependents.

18 b. "Military status" includes any branch of the United States military, and the  
19 national guard or reserve.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
HB 1338**

**Human Services Committee (Rep. M. Ruby, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.1060.01003](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1338 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

25.1060.01002  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council  
staff for Representative M. Ruby  
February 7, 2025

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

### HOUSE BILL NO. 1338

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Representatives M. Ruby, Beltz, Bolinske, J. Olson, D. Johnston, Klemin

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**2025 SENATE HUMAN SERVICES**

**HB 1338**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1338  
3/11/2025

Relating to a determination by the department of health and human services of an individual's military status in child abuse and neglect assessments.

10:45 a.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

### Discussion Topics:

- Affected Military Personal
- Information sharing

10:45 a.m. Representative Ruby, District 40, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #40518.

10:49 a.m. Lieutenant Colonel Jay Sheldon, ND National Guard, Administrator of ND Military Commission, testified in favor and submitted testimony #40084.

10:53 a.m. Kimberly K. Jacobson, Director with Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone, testified in favor and submitted testimony #40293.

10:57 a.m. Michelle Richart, Defense-State Liaison Office with United States Department of Defense, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39974.

11:01 a.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

*Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk*





**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

**March 11, 2025**

**Chairperson Judy Lee**  
**Chair, Senate Human Services Committee**

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

**Support of: HB1338 – Relating to a determination by the department of health and human services of an individual’s military status in child abuse and neglect allegations.**

**Testimony**

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CAPTA further requires that a state such as North Dakota has in effect, and is enforcing a State law, or has in effect and is operating a statewide program relating to child abuse and neglect that includes “*provisions to require a State to disclose confidential information to any Federal, State, or local government entity, or any agent of such entity, that has a need for such information in order to carry out its responsibilities under law to protect children from child abuse and neglect*”, and “*the cooperation of State law enforcement officials, court of competent jurisdiction, and appropriate State agencies providing human services in the investigation, assessment, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse and neglect.*”

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Madame Chair, the Department of Defense appreciates your recognition of the important relationship between the state and local child protective services and the associated military FAP offices in responding and providing support and services to address child abuse in military families.

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Very Respectfully,

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

TESTIMONY OF  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAY SHELDON  
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD  
BEFORE THE  
SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
11 MARCH 2025  
HOUSE BILL 1338

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1338. This legislation represents a step in strengthening the coordination between state child protective services (CPS) and military Family Advocacy Programs (FAP) to ensure the safety and well-being of military families and children.

Federal law requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to request state reports regarding instances of child abuse and neglect involving military family members. House Bill 1338 aligns with this requirement by establishing a process for identifying military status in child abuse and neglect allegations and ensuring pertinent information is shared with the appropriate military authorities.

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Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



Testimony prepared for the Senate Human Services Committee  
HB 1338 – Military status in child abuse and neglect allegations  
March 11, 2025  
Kim Jacobson, Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone Director

---

Chair Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Kim Jacobson. I serve as the Director of Agassiz Valley Human Service Zone, which includes the counties of Traill and Steele, and as President of the North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association. I am here today to testify in support of HB 1338.

Human service zones serve as the legal designee for completing suspected child abuse and neglect assessments (commonly known as CPS). Our work begins with receiving reports of suspected child abuse or neglect by our centralized intake team. This team then dispatches the report appropriate for further assessment to the CPS team of the local human service zone. Upon receipt of the report, the zone commences a fact-finding process called an assessment. When the assessment is concluded, the case is staffed with the CPS worker, their supervisor, and a state CPS Field Service Specialist issue a determination if the legal definition of child abuse or neglect can be substantiated.

House Bill 1338 is related to CPS reports that involve military-affiliated individuals along with notification requirements. Currently, Ward and Grand Forks have a memorandum of understanding in place between their respective human service zones and military installation base. However, North Dakota does not have a statewide agreement, and we recognize that military affiliated individuals can be located across our state.

The North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association engaged with the bill sponsor and various military officials to amend the original bill. Areas of clarification and definition were adopted. To ensure consistent practice, our Association supports a statewide policy agreement as suggested in HB 1338.

To support compliance with this law, a question could be added during the CPS Central Intake processes. We can also create a process ensure appropriate zone action if military affiliation is learned after the intake stage. This is not anticipated to pose an excessive administrative burden and would support consistent operational processes.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony. I urge a “do pass” on HB 1338. I stand for questions from the committee.



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## **Representative Matthew Ruby**

District 40  
1400 Golden Valley Lane  
Minot, ND 58703-1192  
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## **COMMITTEES:**

Human Services (Chair)  
Energy and Natural Resources

10MAR2025

Good morning, Chairman Lee and Committee,

My name is Matt Ruby, and I represent District 40 in Minot. I bring HB 1338 which would require Human Service Zones to determine the military status of an individual is that individual's child is the subject of child abuse or neglect. If that individual is a military member, the zone shall notify the nearest military facility's Family Advocacy Program. The Family Advocacy Program provides clinical and nonclinical services to prevent and respond to child and domestic abuse. Some of the benefits of this program are supports for new parents, response to reports, and they can connect you with resources. There are some areas of the state that have existing Memorandums of Understanding with military installations, and this would help the Department of Defense get access to the reports regarding instances of child abuse and neglect involving military family members. These reports are used for data collection that is used to tailor the trainings and program as well as justify funding for the Family Advocacy Program. I hope the committee will agree with the benefits of this bill and give it a favorable recommendation. I am happy to stand for questions.

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Human Services Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

HB 1338  
3/12/2025

Relating to a determination by the department of health and human services of an individual's military status in child abuse and neglect assessments.

2:19 p.m. Chairman Lee opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Lee, Vice-Chairman Weston, Senator Van Oosting, Senator Clemens, Senator Hogan, Senator Roers.

### Discussion Topics:

- Statewide information sharing

2:20 p.m. Senator Weston moved Do Pass.

2:20 p.m. Senator Roers seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Kent Weston	Y
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Kathy Hogan	Y
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion passed 6-0-0.

Senator Roers carry the bill.

2:21 p.m. Chairman Lee closed the hearing.

*Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
ENGROSSED HB 1338 ([25.1060.02000](#))**

**Human Services Committee (Sen. Lee, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1338 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.