

**House Education Committee  
67<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session  
Representative Mark Owens-Chair**

Chairman Owens and House Education Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1125. This bill will...

- Align the number of years to qualify as a ND resident for a Veteran to that of a surviving spouse to 5 years for either. Current requirement is 10 for a veteran and 5 for surviving spouse.
- Creates a more uniform definition of a “Dependent” under NDCC 15-10-18.2 (1) clearly spelling out: “A child, stepchild, spouse, widow or widower...”

This bill is from the Military Academic Affairs Council (MAAC). Members of the council work with the dependents of these Veterans. They have witnessed firsthand how the current verbiage has negatively affected some of the dependents of those who have sacrificed the most for our country. This bill may not affect many but for those that it does affect it will be of great significance to their lives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA

**Military Academic Affairs Council (MAAC)**

**Established** by ND Department of Veterans Affairs (NDDVA) Commissioner in 2010 as a Veterans Education Advisory Committee to the Commissioner.

**Members:**

- ND Department of Veterans Affairs
- ND Chancellors Office
- State Approving Agency Director (GI Bill)
- ND National Guard Education Officers
- Air Force Education Officers
- Job Service ND Veteran Employment Services
- Institutes of Higher Learning Certifying Officials (State and Independent)