

**Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**  
**Senator Luick-Chair**

Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1196.

Intent of legislative bill:

Ensure eligible dependents are allowed to obtain an undergraduate degree when attending part-time.

Need for Bill...

- Current law requires students to achieve up to bachelor's degree in 45 months or 10 Semesters in ND State Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL)
- IHL charge the student a full month or semester regardless of number of classes or credit hours taken
- Surviving Spouses are likely to have children and need to be employed
  - Unable to attend as a full-time student
  - Difficult to achieve an associate degree with the current law
- Eligible children have opportunity to take college courses while still in high school.
  - Taking 1 course in a semester of high school would result in loss of a semester
- IHL in ND have differing courses and credit hours so adjusting the law to "Pro-Rate" full or part time student level would be cumbersome
- *No fiscal note expected*

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)