

Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
68th Legislative Session
Senator Luick-Chair

Chairman Luick and Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of SB 2204

Intent of this bill:

Allow current or former members of the national guard or reserve to be eligible for the ND Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran's Aid Fund Loan program

Need for bill:

- Many of our current national guard and reserve members qualify as a veteran due to mobilizations during the past 30 years of war.
- Our national guard is depended on more and more for state and federal service
- State activations do not count towards veteran status
- National guard and reserve deserve access to more programs
- NDDVA loan program has sufficient funds to expand its eligibility
- Enlistment in military service to include the national guard and reserve is decreasing
- Young guard and reserve have higher need for unsecured loan during school and beginning years as an adult

Outcome

- Additional benefit for serving our country in the armed forces
- Increased use of ND Loan Program

Fiscal Note:

- None

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA