

**2013 HOUSE EDUCATION**

**HB 1293**

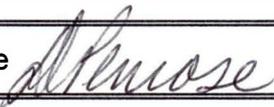
# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Education Committee  
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1293  
February 6, 2013  
18355

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Minutes:

**Ch. Nathe:** We will open the hearing on HB 1293.

**Rep. Kim Koppelman:** Sponsor, support. This bill simply removes the sunset clause. The interstate compact on educational opportunity for military families and that was a compact that has been adopted by many states and it basically helps students of military families, be they National Guard as well as active duty military. This ensures seamless education for those folks. We had a lot of discussion over this during the past two sessions. Two sessions ago it was turned into a study, but it wasn't picked up for a study, and last session we introduced the compact again, and it had a thorough vetting than anything I've seen in the legislature. Many conference committee meetings, meetings on the House and Senate sides and the result was that it was passed. There was a sunset clause attached just to say let's take a look and so from what I have been hearing, everything has been going well and I would urge your Do Pass recommendation on HB 1293.

**Rep. Meier:** How many states have now joined the compact.

**Rep. Koppelman:** I'm not sure.

**Ch. Nathe:** 43.

**Rep. Meier:** So just about all of them.

**Rep. Koppelman:** The ones that aren't signed on may not have any military presence in their state.

**Rep. Meier:** Is there an appropriation on this bill.

**Rep. Koppelman:** I don't think so. Last session, it came out of the Adjutant General's budget, it's a pretty modest cost.

**Rep. Mock:** On page 25, can you speak to the overstruck language related to tuition payments for non-resident students.

**Rep. Koppelman:** I believe if we remove the sunset clause on line 4, it says effective after July 31, 2013. If we remove the sunset, I think that's unnecessary language because it dealt with what would happen if we don't remove the sunset.

**Rep. Rust:** I am assuming that the information that is overstruck on page 24, is the same as the information on page 25, which is there. I think they are identical.

**Ch. Nathe:** Page 25 is overstruck, and page 24 covers the same wording.

**Rep. Schatz:** Somebody asked a question about funding. I see it on page 26, section 8, line 8, the Adjutant General shall pay all expenses incurred by the state to participate in the compact on educational opportunities for military children.

**Rep. Koppelman:** Yes, that's correct, it is in the Adj General's budget.

**Ch. Nathe:** Thank you. Further testimony in support.

**Ben Nielson, NDCEL:** Support. I was one of the reasons that we had the discussions that we had last time and they were excellent. We all knew where we were coming from and the committee did a wonderful job of putting together a compact that we could live with. We wanted the sunset to see how it was working, and my understanding is that it is working.

**Ch. Nathe:** Thank you. Further testimony in support.

**Lt. Col. Davina French, ND National Guard, State Commissioner for this program:** Support. I am the administrative guru that runs around the country trying to figure this all out. Our primary reason for being here is the removal of the sunset clause. We are totally prepared, not today, to bring in the rest of our board members who were appointed by the Governor, DPI, a member of the legislature, which is Karen Karls, Governor's cabinet member which is Gen. Spry, member of the active duty which we have the Grand Forks Air Force Base represented by the Commander up there, and the Superintendent of schools for Minot, which is Mark Vollmer. That's our board that was appointed. We also have the two school liaison officers from Minot Air Force Base and Grand Forks Air Force Base.

**Ch. Nathe:** Gen. Spry is unable to make it today, we will be keeping this hearing open and we will have the rehearing on Feb. 19.

**Lt. Col. Davina French:** There are 43 states that have adopted the compact. In the next 18 months, if all goes well, all 50 states will be adopting this compact. We have approx. 3200 students that are affected through this, through the active duty. It really does affect active duty members, so Grand Forks, Minot, and those of us in the National Guard who were deployed, when we go on active duty stations or when we go to things like War College, flight schools, where it's over a year of active duty service. In the National Guard, you're in a different status. The compact is designed to provide a level playing field for the children. It's not about giving them an advantage. It is about giving them consideration that it's not their fault that their

**parents are in the military and they get moved a lot. The only thing that needs to be done here is to remove the sunset clause. The rest of the compact has worked miraculously and when we were here two years ago, the big fight was that ND has no fight, because ND schools treat their students wonderfully and we're trying to protect those who leave our state, and that's where the problems have been. We've had no issues in the last 2 years with our state.**

**Rep. Meier: What is the continued funding that's in the Adj. General's budget to be part of the compact.**

**Lt. Col. Davina French: At this time, the compact charges \$1 per student, so we paid \$3200 every year so it is just into our state budgets, we just put it right in even though it is an active duty issue, we like to support the military issues in ND as a whole.**

**Ch. Nathe: Thank you. Further testimony in support. Testimony in opposition. We will close the hearing.**

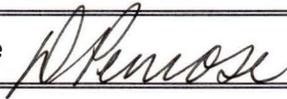
# 2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Education Committee  
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1293  
February 19, 2013  
19150

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Minutes:

**Ch. Nathe:** We will reopen the hearing on HB 1293.

**Rep. Karen Karls:** Co-sponsor, support (see attached #1).

**Ch. Nathe:** Thank you. Further testimony in support.

**Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, Adjutant General for the State of ND:** Support. As Rep. Karls pointed out, there was a considerable amount of discussion during the last legislative session about the military education compact. In the end, the bill was passed into law with a sunset clause. Since you last met, the Commission within the state actually has met three times. In every instance, when we've met at Grand Forks and Minot, there have been family members that have come to us and thanked us for what was done. As a member of a military family, they find themselves being transferred around the world many times during a service member's career. The essence of the bill is to provide for the children that transfer from one school district to another; from one state to another to ensure that during the course of their education, they don't lose ground because of the transfers that are required of them. We've been a nation at war now for over 11 years and during this challenging time, we find that our service members are moving quite often. From the National Guard's perspective, we too have members of the National Guard that are in Title X status. These are the family members that I am especially concerned about because my most important job is just taking care of airmen, soldiers and their families. As a prime example, today we have one of our Lt. Col. who's at the Army War College. He is spending a full year in PA; his family, which includes 4 children with him, and three of the four are in school. It's not just about the active duty side (component), it's also about your National Guard and those members that find themselves being transferred on a temporary basis out of state. Here in ND, we have approx. 3200 students that are members of families that are in this sort of status, between the National Guard and the active duty Air Force. This morning, I have the privilege of providing to you, testimony from Col. Tim Bush. Col. Bush is the Wing Commander at the Grand Forks Air Force Base and he is also the member of the board that was created by the law that was passed in the last session. I am not going to read his testimony (see attached #2). I will highlight two things. Col. Bush points out that he has been in the Air Force now for a total of 29 years and during that 29 year career, he's had 15 permanent changes of station. He said that his two children, have never

attended the same school for more than two years in a row. You can see the challenges and the difficulties that young families in the military face today. We require that our soldiers, airmen, Marines, sailors transfer from one active duty base to another and we want to ensure that the children, as they transfer from one school district to another, from one state to another, are treated fairly and the work that they'd accomplished in the past is recognized by the receiving school district. Col. Bush goes into greater detail about what he has experienced personally, but I think as he says, it is important for a service member to know that when they are transferring to another state, to know that their children will, in fact, be treated fairly from the perspective of the schooling they've already had. The primary reason we are here today is to ensure that we can continue to provide for the students of our military. As their mother or father serves the nation, primarily we want to remove the sunset clause that was included last time. I think it's been proven that this has worked well and people that come to ND appreciate the fact that we recognize the work that their children have accomplished.

Ch. Nathe: As far as the cost of the program, what is that. I know the dollars come from your budget. What is the cost to your budget.

Gen. David Sprynczynatyk: In the bill itself, it references up to \$2/per student. In the last several years, the amount that has been assessed to each state is \$1/per student. In this current biennium, we will have spent approx. \$6,400 from within our budget to be members of the Compact.

Rep. Rohr: I realize that the bill is being heard this time to remove the sunset clause. Are there any other opportunities that we recognize where we can improve on the Compact bill.

Gen. David Sprynczynatyk: I don't believe so. Last time, there was a considerable amount of discussion and fine tuning of the language. Everyone wanted to feel comfortable that it was applicable to ND and the bill that you have before you, reflects what was passed into law last time and there is some updating in reference to the Compact itself, but I wouldn't have any suggestions for anything more that we need to do, because it has worked quite well.

Rep. J. Kelsh: It removes the tuition payments from the non-resident student section of the bill. I was wondering, before they had to collect these, now they won't be able to. What is the situation with all the overstruck language.

Gen. David Sprynczynatyk: Which page is that.

Rep. J. Kelsh: Starts on page 25 of the bill.

Gen. David Sprynczynatyk: If you look on page 24, and I'm not sure why Legislative Council wrote this the way they did, but the language on page 25 is stricken, but if you go back to page 24 you will find the same language. The only addition is that on page 24, for example, the words on line 3, as otherwise agreed to in the compact on educational opportunities for children. Other than that, the language continues on

**and is the same. So the struck language reference to paying tuition is actually put back in on page 24.**

**Rep. Hunsakor: I think it might be interesting to hear of a specific case where this legislation would be good, for instance, a student moves from Grand Forks Air Force Base to LA and the school the children would be attending, may not accept all of the credits from Grand Forks. Are there specifics like that that this would clear the air.**

**Gen. David Sprynczynatyk: The one example that I cited is current. I haven't talked to Col. Herron since he transferred to Army War College, but I know his children are in school in Carlisle, PA. I've not heard of any difficulty or challenges for them in transferring the credits and the work they did here in Bismarck. That's one example. Most of the examples where this is most applicable is when active duty airmen transfer to either Minot or Grand Forks. We have a constant flux of airmen coming and going from within the state. In the case of Col. Bush's testimony there are a number of people at Grand Forks and Minot and there's an individual here today from the Minot Air Force Base that I know can provide examples of what's taking place there.**

**Rep. Hunsakor: I know this is a wonderful piece of legislation but it's good to hear the areas where there was a problem and how this clears that up.**

**Gen. David Sprynczynatyk: Yes.**

**Rep. Meier: Are the states that do not have legislation yet within the compact, do you know if they are working on legislation currently.**

**Gen. David Sprynczynatyk: Yes, I know some of the states are. I don't know about all of them. When I meet with the other adjutant generals this question comes up on occasion. I know that they are addressing it through the legislative process. Five states were added since we last met here two years ago, and of course, there is a remainder of seven that hopefully will pass this into law as well. The other members of our state board are here as well; DPI superintendent, Kirsten Baesler and the person from Minot Air Force Base, and Mark Vollmer who is the superintendent of schools for Minot.**

**Ch. Nathe: Thank you.**

**Mark Vollmer, Superintendent, Minot Public School District #1 and Minot Air Force Base School District #160: Support (see attached #3).**

**Ch. Nathe: How often does the board meet.**

**Mark Vollmer: Twice a year primarily. It took a while after the last legislative session to get operating, we had officially three meetings.**

**Rep. Rohr: I noticed on page 3 of the testimony that the General had handed out by Col. Bush, he recognized that there was some inconsistent curriculum requirements**

**and inconsistent grading systems and that's why this compact has worked. Can you tell me a little bit how you operationalize that with these students to overcome those barriers.**

**Mark Vollmer: A couple of things come to mind. When students travel to and from different cities and different communities and within different states, we see an incredible amount of difference in regard to grading systems. It could be graduation requirements. Minot, for years, had a very strange caveat in our graduation requirements, and that was a 1/4 credit of drivers education. We are one of the only schools in the state of ND that actually required that. When a student would come to us as a freshman in high school, that military compact didn't play a role in that process. It would play a role if that student came to us as a senior, and it would be onerous for that child to take that 1/4 credit of drivers education, when they've already got a driver's license, or they may have taken a program in another state, which may or may not have been qualified or where they earned credit. It allows the schools the ability to work with families to ensure that kids can graduate on time and on schedule. The other end of that is, and I think it is very important that we do comment that in this day of technology, it is so much easier for school districts to work with other school districts. So if we know a family is going to be transferring to Barksdale, for example, that we can work with that school to develop a plan of study, even a year before they go to make sure that we're working together so there are no hiccups in the road for that student. It's a good thing for kids.**

**Rep. D. Johnson: In regard to these students moving around the country, I was in the military myself, and have seen how that works for them. What are the chances of one of the students being a valedictorian or a salutatorian coming in their sophomore or junior year.**

**Mark Vollmer: It would depend on the individual's schools and the processes. For example, in Minot we do not have a valedictorian or salutatorian. We do 4.0 students and then students are then ranked on that basis. Essentially, those credits are guaranteed, that GPA is guaranteed, the only hiccups that we do have is that some of our students that come from Alexandria, VA where they do international baccalaureate programs which we don't offer, or they have a weighted grading scale. We have to weigh that into consideration and we do that through the compact. In general, we work it out with the school district. This bill has opened up that line of communication with school districts, so we communicate out what that means in regard to a weighted grading scale.**

**Ch. Nathe: Thank you. Further testimony in support.**

**Andy Peterson, Greater ND Chamber of Commerce: Support. I am very thankful that we did pass this last session and sent the signal that the Minot Air Force Base and Grand Forks Air Force Base are open for business. I would encourage you to, of course, pass this again. We recognized the economic impacts of military facilities here in ND upon our economy and we have a lot of things going here in ND, this is one more great thing and we want to support our military personnel.**

**Ch. Nathe: Thank you. Further testimony in support.**

**John Jacobsen, Legislative Committee of the ND Veterans Coordinating Council:  
Support (see attached #4).**

**Ch. Nathe: Thank you. Further testimony in support of HB 1293. Testimony in  
opposition. We will close the hearing. What are the committee's wishes in regard to  
HB 1293.**

**Rep. Schatz: I move a Do Pass.**

**Rep. B. Koppelman: Second the motion.**

**12 YES 0 NO 1 ABSENT**

**DO PASS**

**CARRIER: Rep. Rohr**

Date: 2/19/2013

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1293

House EDUCATION Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken:  Do Pass  Amended  Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Do Not Pass  Adopt Amendment

Motion Made By Rep. Schatz Seconded By Rep. Koppelman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Mike Nathe	✓		Rep. Bob Hunskor	✓	
Rep. Mike Schatz	✓		Rep. Jerry Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Joe Heilman			Rep. Corey Mock	✓	
Rep. Brenda Heller	✓				
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓				
Rep. Ben Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Lisa Meier	✓				
Rep. Karen Rohr	✓				
Rep. David Rust	✓				
Rep. John Wall	✓				

TOTAL (YES) 12 (NO) 0 (ABSENT) 1

FLOOR ASSIGNMENT Rep. Rohr

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1293: Education Committee (Rep. Nathe, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1293 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2013 SENATE EDUCATION**

**HB 1293**

# 2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Education Committee  
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HB 1293  
3-11-13  
19684

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15.1-04.1-01, 15.1-04.1-02, 15.1-04.1-03, 15.1-04.1-04, 15.1-06-01, 15.1-21-02.1, 15.1-29-13, and 37-03-16 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the compact on educational opportunity for military children.

## Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

**Chairman Flakoll** opened the hearing on HB 1293

**General Dave Sprynczynatyk:** I am here to testify in support of HB 1293. The military education compact was put into law with the sunset clause on June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. That is why it is before you again. We are asking to remove the sunset clause to help take care of our military children. The language in this bill provides assurance that children will be taken care of (attachment #1 provided from Colonel Timothy E. Bush, 319<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing Commander). We expect another round of base realignment and closure will happen. The BRAC commission will look at every military installation around the country and world and make some decisions on what needs to remain and what can be closed.

**Chairman Flakoll:** The bill last session had the sunset. Was there anything that had to be cleaned up or clarified?

**General Dave Sprynczynatyk:** No. The commission met three times this past year and we reported to one of the interim committees that everything worked well. I am the executive breach representative on the commission and there were some issues discussed but everything worked very smoothly.

**Representative Kim Koppleman, District 13:** I am the prime sponsor of HB 1293. I sponsored this initially four years ago. We re-introduced this. The measure was supported and passed with a Sunset. All HB 1293 does is remove the sunset clause. I am not just for any compact but when they make sense, they allow the states to cooperate without Federal Government Involvement. Bev Nielson from NDEA is supporting this. I am hearing from everyone that this is working well. I recommend a Do Pass on HB 1293.

**Chairman Flakoll:** Are there any components of this still waiting for implementation.

**Representative Kim Koppleman, District 13:** It looks like there is more to it but they are just removing the sunset language and making it permanent. I think it is running well.

**Andy Peterson, Greater ND Chamber of Commerce:** We have had discussions with the Fargo Chamber, Grand Forks, Minot, and Devil's Lake. We are all in support of this bill and urge a do pass on this.

**Mark Vollmer, Superintendent with Minot School District Minot #1 and Minot AFB #160:** I wish to testify in support of HB 1293. (Written Testimony #2 attached)

**Chairman Flakoll:** Have you had any instances with special education challenges with alignment?

**Mark Vollmer:** We have not had any specific situations in Minot in regards to that but I have heard of situations in the past. There is some involvement with the Feds in regard to what the IEP states. There may be a discrepancy because when the three year reevaluation would come up, that child may be re-tested and things may not be the same but that change is not directly a result of the compact as it is just the process of reviewing for special education. We honor the IEDs that come to us.

**Chairman Flakoll:** How many are we talking about at the base?

**Mark Vollmer:** 3200 statewide, Minot being the largest military instillation.

**Chairman Flakoll:** Can you give me an example of how this works for some child or family?

**Mark Vollmer:** I can't give an example of transferring in, only transferring out of North Dakota. We were notified that parents were going to be transferring. We worked with that school directly to make sure what we had them registered in met the criteria for the incoming state. The difference is we used to say our requirement is driver's education and you are taking that regardless if you think you are transferring to another school district. When we get those orders, we build that schedule to meet the needs of the transfer to the other state. We also have school liaison officers to work with families.

**John Jacobsen, Legislative Committee of the ND Veteran's Coordinating Council:** I wish to testify in support of HB 1293 (Written Testimony #3 attached)

**Matt Balas, School Lesion Officer at Minot AFB:** I work with these military families every day. I wish to testify in support of HB 1293

**Chairman Flakoll:** Closed hearing on HB 1293

**Senator Marcellais:** I move a Do Pass on HB 1293

**Vice Chairman Schaible:** Second

**A roll call vote was taken for a Do Pass on HB 1293: 6 yeas, 0 neas, 0 absent**

**Vice Chairman Schaible will carry**



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1293: Education Committee (Sen. Flakoll, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1293 was placed on the  
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

**2013 TESTIMONY**

**HB 1293**

**HB 1293 - House Education Committee  
February 19, 2013  
Rep. Karen Karls – District 35, Bismarck**

**In the 2011 session, HB 1248 was signed into law and ND entered into The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. It is, in essence, an agreement among member states to address certain school transition issues for military children in a consistent manner. We entered the Compact as state #38; we now number 43 states!**

**The Compact requires member states to create a state council to coordinate participation among state agencies, school districts and military installations. The composition of the council is set in the statute and I serve as the member of the legislature.**

**In July of 2012, we presented a report to the Education Funding & Taxation interim committee, as required, and today we seek removal of the sunset clause via HB 1293.**

**I would be happy to answer any questions.**

HB 1248 Conference Committee Report  
2011 Session

Mr. Speaker....

HB 1248 is about the Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The Compact provides a vehicle for states to join together to follow common guidelines in handling issues that impact children of military families as they transition between schools. Military children move an average of 6-9 times during their K-12 years. National Guard children may be faced with deployment of their parents, requiring schooling with relatives in another district or state.

These transitions can be difficult for both the student and their parents, but things are compounded when the family has to deal with different school policies and requirements from one state to the next.

This is a problem that the Military could easily have solved with Congressional action and mandates on all states and all schools. To their credit, however, the Department of Defense chose, instead, to work with states to allow us to craft solutions, instead of another mandate from the federal government. The result of this collaboration is this Compact.

Common issues that the Compact addresses are: class placement, records transfer, immunization requirements, course placement, graduation requirements, exit testing, and extra-curricular opportunities, among others.. The Compact gives schools needed flexibility when working with military families and helps make the transition much smoother. It also ensure that military children have the same opportunities for educational success as other students and are not penalized or delayed because of their frequent moves.

Your conference committee on HB 1248 worked to address many questions that came up on the bill and this is the product of that work. It is important legislation that 36 states have adopted to date. ND is a state with one of the largest military populations that has not yet joined the Compact.

HB 1248 Talking Points  
2011 Session

Specific impacts on military children include:

- Transfer of records
- Course sequencing
- Graduation requirements
- Exclusion from extra-curricular activities
- Redundant or missed entrance/exit testing
- Kindergarten and first grade entrance age variations
- Power of Custodial Parents While Parents are Deployed

The purpose of the compact is to:

- Facilitate the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensure that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school district(s) or variations in entrance/age requirements.
- Facilitate the student placement process through which children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content or assessment.
- Facilitate the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic and/or social activities.
- Facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families.
- Provide for the promulgation and enforcement of administrative rules implementing the provisions of the compact.
- Provide for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools and military families.
- Promote flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents and the student in order to achieve educational success for the student.

**The Conference Committee jointly dealt with issues such as:**

- **What is the funding source? (Sect. 5) This is such an important military retention issue (among others) that the Adjutant General will find the funds in his budget.**
- **What is the cost? \$1/ military child/year = ~\$3,500 per year; we placed a cap on that amount (and also on the cost to withdraw) at \$2/child/year. We amended the Compact to limit cost and prohibit liability.**
- **How is the State Compact Council set up and which agency or agencies are responsible? Those are listed on p. 16 &17.**

**Mr. Speaker and Member of the Assembly....**

**we passed a study resolution on the Compact last session, but it wasn't picked for a study. That's why the Conference Committee looked at this carefully and adopted amendments to address questions. This legislation is so very important to our military and to their children.**

**When this bill takes effect August 1, ND will apply to join the Compact. There is a reporting requirement listed in Section 6 (to give us a study in "real time") and a sunset clause added in Section 7 so that we can re-visit this Compact in 2 years, if needed.**

**Your conference committee worked long and hard on this bill and voted to unanimously to approve it. We ask that you concur.**

**Thank you, Mr. Speaker.**



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 319TH AIR BASE WING (AMC)  
GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, NORTH DAKOTA

15 February 2013

Colonel Timothy E. Bush  
319<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing Commander  
460 Steen Blvd  
Grand Forks AFB, ND 58205

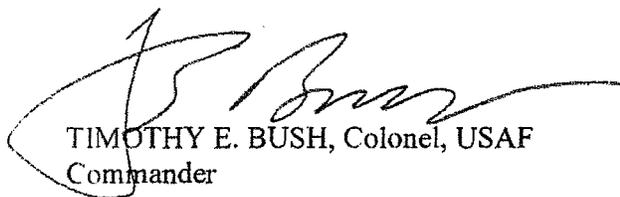
North Dakota House Education Committee  
North Dakota State Capital  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Mr. Chairman and committee members,

Regrettably, I am unable to attend the Education Committee's hearing reference HB 1293 on 19 February 2013. In lieu of my personal appearance, I respectfully request that my attached prepared personal remarks be submitted to the committee for inclusion in the official record.

Should the committee have any questions for me I will be delighted to answer them. I can be contacted telephonically at (701) 747-4150, or by email at [timothy.bush@us.af.mil](mailto:timothy.bush@us.af.mil). Thank you for your unwavering support of our military families.

Yours in service,



TIMOTHY E. BUSH, Colonel, USAF  
Commander

Attachment:  
Testimony for HB 1293

## Testimony for HB 1293

### Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children

Good morning Mr. Chairman and committee members. I am Col Timothy Bush, Commander of the 319th Air Base Wing at Grand Forks Air Force Base. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1293. Today, I am representing Minot and Grand Forks Air Force Bases as well as the military active duty families stationed in North Dakota. First and foremost, I want to thank you for passing this bill two years ago. As a direct consequence of the bill, North Dakota school systems clearly demonstrated outstanding educational support for our military families, particularly in the communities that surround the Grand Forks and Minot Air Force Bases. The military families who serve in North Dakota are grateful for the peace of mind this bill provides by ensuring their children will receive

quality educational opportunities when they are faced with the challenges of multiple moves and parental deployments. This bill serves as a quality of life initiative giving North Dakota a prime opportunity to partner with the Department of Defense and its “Ten Key Issues for Military Families” initiatives, thereby helping to decrease stress on our military families and reduce the difficulties of transition for their children. Your decision to reauthorize this bill demonstrates North Dakota’s unwavering support for current and future military families.

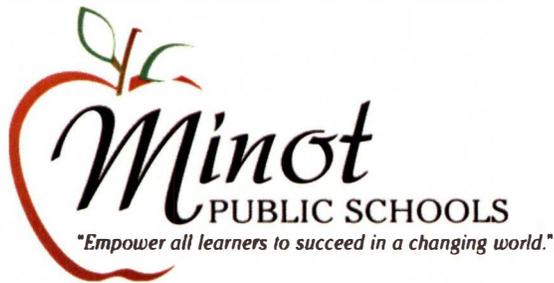
Transition has been and always will be a constant in the lives of our military children. I speak from personal experience. In the almost 29 years I’ve been privileged to wear our nation’s uniform, the Bush family has experienced 15 permanent changes of station and 19 household moves. My son and daughter, Dillon and Cassidy, have never attended the same school more than two years in a row nor lived in the same house for more than 30 months. Our experience is not extraordinary for military families. The mobile military lifestyle creates special

challenges for the children of military members, who attend on average six to nine different school systems from kindergarten to twelfth grade. In addition, the children often endure the anxiety of being separated from a parent deployed and in harm's way. In fact, there are nearly two million military-connected youth, and 80% of them attend public schools in the United States. According to the Military Child Education Coalition, every school district in this country has military-connected children and youth. And here in North Dakota, we have more than 2,000 military-connected youth whose parents are stationed at either Minot or Grand Forks Air Force Base. The challenges for military students as they transition between school systems are many. They include: Inconsistent curriculum requirements, inconsistent grading systems, varying special needs services, varying honors programs, delayed graduation or entrance into kindergarten, and lost scholarship opportunities. The Military Interstate Compact paves the way for military families to experience consistency, cooperation, and a uniform means to collect and share data between school systems despite the

demands of the dynamic military lifestyle. And we know the Military Interstate Compact works because it has been demonstrated by the harmonious transitions felt by our military families over the past two years.

In the Air Force we have something we call the “Wingman Concept.” Stated simply, this concept means “we will take care of our own,” and “we will never leave a fellow Airman behind.” In passing the Interstate Compact two years ago, you became Wingmen to our children and their families, and you are enabling thousands of principals, teachers, and counselors across North Dakota to be Wingmen to their military-affiliated students. Our military families already know that the great people of North Dakota have embraced us as “one of your own,” and we know through your commitment to reauthorizing the Military Interstate Compact that you will help overcome educational transition issues for children of military families. It is well understood in the Armed Services that taking care of the military family means the Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine can focus on taking care of the

mission. By passing House Bill 1293, the state of North Dakota can help us take the best possible care of our military families and their children while ensuring we remain the strongest possible military force in the world. Thank you for your time, and most importantly, I urge your support for the continued participation by North Dakota in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and your support of House Bill 1293.



Mark Vollmer, Superintendent  
mark.vollmer.1@sendit.nodak.edu

215 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SE • Minot, ND 58701  
Phone 701-857-4422 • Fax 701-857-4432

## Testimony in regard to House Bill 1293

Members of the House Education Committee: My name is Mark Vollmer. I proudly serve as Superintendent of Minot School District #1 and Minot Air Force Base School District #160. I also serve as a member of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission. Today, I join with my colleagues to offer support of House Bill 1293.

Transitioning to-and-from schools is never an easy task. The children of military personnel know this first hand. The Military Interstate Children's Compact provides needed guarantees for military children. The commission works with school districts to ensure children of active-duty military personnel are provided fair and equal access to educational and extracurricular programs.

North Dakota schools that serve military installations have always taken great pride in ensuring equal access to all programs. The Military Interstate Children's Compact has not drastically changed the way North Dakota schools operate.

The advantage of the Military Interstate Children's Compact extends beyond the boundaries of our state. This compact ensures equal opportunity and treatment of military children as they travel to other states, and ensures parents and students will be treated in an equitable manner when moving between schools. This smooth transition helps promote academic success, increases standardized test scores, promotes positive social transitions, and increases graduation rates for military dependent students. *In simple terms, the compact is good for kids.*

The Military Interstate Children's Compact has leveled the playing field and guarantees equal opportunities for all military children. **The compact works, and I ask for your support in ensuring the Military Interstate Children's Compact is allowed to continue in North Dakota.**

## NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL

My name is John Jacobsen. I am a member of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. The Coordinating Council is made up of 15 members, 3 from each of the five veterans' organizations in North Dakota.

American Legion

AMVETS

Disabled American Veterans

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Vietnam Veterans of America

It is the policy of the Coordinating Council to support legislation that will benefit the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces. The committee **MUST** concur totally, that is all 15 members must agree on the legislation to be supported or else it does not get the support.

In this case, I have been instructed to recommend to this legislative committee that a "DO PASS" on HB 1293 is supported by the Veterans Coordinating Council.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 319TH AIR BASE WING (AMC)  
GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE, NORTH DAKOTA

#1

11 March 2013

Colonel Timothy E. Bush  
319<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing Commander  
460 Steen Blvd  
Grand Forks AFB, ND 58205

North Dakota House Education Committee  
North Dakota State Capital  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Senate Education Committee,

Regrettably, I am unable to attend the Senate Education Committee's hearing reference HB 1293 on 11 March 2013. In lieu of my personal appearance, I respectfully request that my attached prepared personal remarks be submitted to the committee for inclusion in the official record.

Should the committee have any questions for me I will be delighted to answer them. I can be contacted telephonically at (701) 747-4150, or by email at [timothy.bush@us.af.mil](mailto:timothy.bush@us.af.mil). Thank you for your unwavering support of our military families.

Yours in service,



TIMOTHY E. BUSH, Colonel, USAF  
Commander

Attachment:  
Testimony for HB 1293

## Testimony for HB 1293

### Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children

Good morning Senate Education Committee. I am Col Timothy Bush, Commander of the 319th Air Base Wing at Grand Forks Air Force Base. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1293. Today, I am representing Minot and Grand Forks Air Force Bases as well as the military active duty families stationed in North Dakota. First and foremost, I want to thank you for passing this bill two years ago. As a direct consequence of the bill, North Dakota school systems clearly demonstrated outstanding educational support for our military families, particularly in the communities that surround the Grand Forks and Minot Air Force Bases. The military families who serve in North Dakota are grateful for the peace of mind this bill provides by ensuring their children will receive quality educational opportunities when they

are faced with the challenges of multiple moves and parental deployments. This bill serves as a quality of life initiative giving North Dakota a prime opportunity to partner with the Department of Defense and its “Ten Key Issues for Military Families” initiatives, thereby helping to decrease stress on our military families and reduce the difficulties of transition for their children. Your decision to reauthorize this bill demonstrates North Dakota’s unwavering support for current and future military families.

Transition has been and always will be a constant in the lives of our military children. I speak from personal experience. In the almost 29 years I’ve been privileged to wear our nation’s uniform, the Bush family has experienced 15 permanent changes of station and 19 household moves. My son and daughter, Dillon and Cassidy, have never attended the same school more than two years in a row nor lived in the same house for more than 30 months. Our experience is not extraordinary for military families. The mobile military lifestyle creates special

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H2

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