

2009 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1414

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. HB 1414

House Transportation Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: 02/05/09

Recorder Job Number: 8785

Committee Clerk Signature

Jeanette Cook

Minutes:

Representative Lisa Meier, District 32, introduced HB 1414. See attachment #1.

Representative Meier provided examples of plates that are used in other states. See attachment #2.

Representative Delmore: Do you have any idea what the design will look like?

Representative Lisa Meier: The DOT hasn't come up with a design as of yet, since the bill hasn't passed.

Representative Potter: When you say surviving members of fallen members of the US Military, would that be the parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters?

Representative Lisa Meier: Those would all be included. They are stated on the bill.

Chairman Ruby: Is there an initial fee of \$15 and after that a surcharge of \$10?

Representative Lisa Meier: Yes, that is correct. The DOT will be able to explain the mechanism.

Representative Mike Nathe, District 30, encouraged the committee's support of HB 1414.

Representative Griffin: Was there ever any discussion about waiving the fees?

Representative Lisa Meier: We did discuss waving the fees with the DOT. We thought that it would be better to propose a fee because we were afraid that if you open it wide up, it does allow some opportunities for families that aren't families of veterans to pass some fraud.

Francis Ziegler, Director of North Dakota Department of Transportation, spoke in support of HB 1414. See attachment #3.

Representative Potter: How does the department certify someone?

Francis Ziegler: We have a model in place for the Veteran's plates at this time. The language that we have in the bill is the same language that we use to certify whoever can get buried in the veteran's cemetery. So, if they have a member in the veteran's cemetery, we will do follow up through the Adjutant General to make sure that the person is truly the family member. The same process will be used if they are buried somewhere else.

Representative Weisz: In Subsection 5, says can't you remove the eligibility? What is the purpose of that section?

Linda Butts, DOT: The reason was that when we were designing the program, we wanted to maintain the integrity of who was really eligible for the plates. Once that person who was deemed eligible passes away, we will not give that number to anyone else. The number is retired when the person passes on. The plan is to work directly with the Veteran's Administration who already does screening. Once they have told us a person is eligible, we would never go back and say that person is ineligible. The system will work as well at the screening process that the VA currently has.

Representative Vigesaa: Subsection 3 talks about the actual configuration of the plate and noted that the numbers GS would be in front of the number. I know that we have some other special plates. Will these plates still be able to be personalized? And if so, I think the extra letters will limit what they can put on the plate.

Francis Ziegler: There will be a special design. We will be working with that, to include the G S as part of the design. Vanity plates are allowed on other plates with special logos.

Representative Schmidt: Don't you think the participation for this will be close to 100%? Wouldn't the income be more?

Francis Ziegler: We are not sure what kind of participation we might get. Assuming we have 100% participation, I believe we have about 12,000 that will be eligible for this.

Gene Kouba, current president of North Dakota Veteran's Coordinating Council, supported HB 1414 by a unanimous vote of his organization. He related that Bernadette Monroe came into his office after trying to get a Purple Heart plate for her son who died October 11, 2004. The DOT wouldn't sell her one. He made some contacts and found out that what she should really have is a Gold Star Mother plate to honor the fallen veteran. For the record, there have been twenty veterans in North Dakota that have died in the Global War on Terrorism. There will be no problem screening applicants. There is already a system in place. Mr. Kouba provided a list of other states that have Gold Star plates. See attachment # 4.

Major Davina French, North Dakota National Guard passed out a picture of twelve members of the National Guard that have been lost. See attachment #5. She recognized some of the parents who were in the room. **Mrs. Reese, the mother of Kenny Hendrickson; Joyce Meher, the mother of Chris Meher; Sheila Vector Richter, the mother of Travis VanZoest were introduced.** The importance of this bill is not only to honor the families, but we would like to say that families serve forever. These plates will give us the opportunity to thank these families for their sacrifice.

Doug Johnson, a North Dakota Citizen, spoke in support of HB 1414. He would like us to use this opportunity to honor those who have fallen in wars and conflicts. He feels that it is important for us to recognize these veterans.

Linda Butts addressed Representative Potter question about offering the plates free.

Linda Butts: When we first started working on this concept it was to honor fallen veterans of the Iraqi war. As we worked on this, we decided that we would need to open it up to all who had lost loved ones, in any war. At that point, we didn't know the scope and size of the project, so, it went from being offered free to a small population, to something that we at least needed to recover our costs. We decided that if we can recover our costs, anything thereafter we would give to the veterans. Those funds then can be used for appropriate purposes.

That is the history of the fees.

The hearing was closed on HB 1414.

Representative R. Kelsch moved a Do Pass on HB 1414.

Representative Weisz seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken on HB 1414. **Aye 14 Nay 0 Absent 0**

The motion passed.

Representative R. Kelsch will carry HB 1414.

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/15/2009

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1414

1A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2007-2009 Biennium		2009-2011 Biennium		2011-2013 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues				\$8,300		\$4,300
Expenditures				\$8,300		\$4,300
Appropriations				\$1,500		\$0

1B. **County, city, and school district fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

2007-2009 Biennium			2009-2011 Biennium			2011-2013 Biennium		
Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts	Counties	Cities	School Districts

2A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

This bill will provide for a new vehicle license plate for surviving family members of a military member who died on active duty during a time of conflict. Development of the plate will be the biggest cost for this process.

B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Plate development cost: \$1,500.00. Plate material and mailing cost \$8.83 per plate set. Estimating 50% of authorized would purchase the plate this biennium and another 30% for following biennium – the cost of this material/ mailing is off-set by the fee collected.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

Revenues gained from these plates will yield full coverage of costs for the DOT. After DOT recovers initial issue fees, the annual renewal will net \$10.00 per renewal for the Veterans Cemetery maintenance fund, which should result in between \$7,000 - \$15,000 per biennium.

B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

The only cost for this plate is the initial development cost for the plate. This cost is estimated to be \$1,500.00.

C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation is also included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

The first year appropriation will cover the cost of initial plate development. After that time, there is no recurring appropriation required.

Name:	Glenn Jackson	Agency:	NDDOT
Phone Number:	328-4792	Date Prepared:	01/20/2009

Date: 2-05-09

Roll Call Vote #: 2

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1414

House TRANSPORTATION Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do pass Don't Pass Amended

Motion Made By Kelsch Seconded By Weisz

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Representative Ruby - Chairman	✓		Representative Delmore	✓	
Rep. Weiler - Vice Chairman	✓		Representative Griffin	✓	
Representative Frantsvog	✓		Representative Gruchalla	✓	
Representative Heller	✓		Representative Potter	✓	
Representative R. Kelsch	✓		Representative Schmidt	✓	
Representative Sukut	✓		Representative Thorpe	✓	
Representative Vigesaa	✓				
Representative Weisz	✓				

Total Yes 14 No 0

Absent 0

Bill Carrier Kelsch

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1414: Transportation Committee (Rep. Ruby, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1414 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2009 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1414

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1414

Senate Transportation Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 5, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 10236

Committee Clerk Signature

Jody Haugz

Minutes:

Chairman Gary Lee opened the hearing on SB 1414 relating to the issuance of special plates for surviving family members of fallen members of the United States military. Senate Marcellais was absent.

Rep. Lisa Meier introduced HB 1414 and urged a do pass. Written testimony # 1

Senator Lee asked for clarification on legislative intent on line 13 of section 1. Where it said, "the arm forces of the United States who died while serving on active duty during the time of military conflict". Does that mean killed in action or someone serving during a time of war and not in the conflict?

Rep. Meier said they discussed it and decided that if they were serving overseas in the conflict directly.

Rep. Nathe testified in support of HB 1414.

Gene Kouba, DAV and current president of the ND coordinating council of all the service organizations in ND testified in support of HB 1414. He told of one of the mom's who came into his office and told him she tried to buy a purple heart license plate in honor of her son who had died in October 11, 2004 and she couldn't get one. Out of this came HB 1414. He passed out a listing of all the states that have a Gold Star license plate, list of states with no Gold Star

plates, and list of states introducing legislation this year. He recognized the families of fallen soldiers in the room.

Senator Nodland asked for clarification on lines 13 & 14.

Gene Kouba answered it was killed in action.

Doug Johnson a citizen of ND testified in support of HB 1414. He said his wife's grandmother lost 2 sons in WWI and had two of those flags that her and her family treasured it even now. He said that he had relationships with some of the families that were here and even had one of the boys as an employee at his school and also one of the boys was a student at his school at Simile when he was principal and his mother was a student of his. I encourage a do pass for these parents here today and all families who have lost sons or daughter in military conflicts.

Linda Butts, Deputy Director for Driver and Vehicle Services at the ND Department of Transportation testified in support of HB 1414. Written testimony #3

Senator Potter asked a question on page 2, lines 7-8.

Linda answered that this was already in place.

Paul Goodiron, father of Nathan Goodiron who was killed in action on Thanksgiving Day 2008. He said that he had served 4 tours in Vietnam and he asked to go, so did his son. North Dakota has suffered the highest percentage of those killed in Iraq and Iran. He asked the committee to look favorably on this bill for those not coming home.

Harriet Goodiron mother of Nathan Goodiron thanked the state of ND for helping us not to forget what our sons and daughters have done for their state and nation.

No Opposition

Senator Lee closed the hearing on SB 1414.

Senator Nodland moved a do pass.

Senator Fiebiger seconded.

Senator Lee said as a veteran it is a privilege to bring support to this bill and recognize this group of families.

Roll call vote: 5-0-1

Senator Nodland will be the carrier.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1414: Transportation Committee (Sen. G. Lee, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE REREFERRED to the Appropriations Committee (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1414 was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.

2009 TESTIMONY

HB 1414

Attachment 1

HB 1414

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the House Transportation Committee.

For the record my name is Rep. Lisa Meier from District 32.

I'm here today to introduce HB1414.

HB1414 issues Gold Star License plates for surviving members of fallen members of the United States military.

This bill is a small token of appreciation that we can deliver to honor the legacy of those brave men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

The symbol of the Gold Star dates back to WWI, when families had a member serving in the armed forces, during wartime. They flew in their windows a little flag with a blue star on it. If their soldier, sailor, or Marine, had died, that blue star was replaced with a gold star.

Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, many states have passed this legislation to honor families of veterans and I have passed around some information.

There are others here to testify on this legislation including individuals from the Department of Transportation to explain the distribution of the license plates.

Mr. Chairman that concludes my testimony and I ask for a favorable Do pass.

Thank you.

Attachment # 2



Same handbook given to Senate.



**Perpetuating the Noble Principles
for which They Fought and Died**

- Home
- Who We Are
- Join
- Events
- News
- Members
- Resources
- Depts
- FAQ's




Gold Star Family License Plate Status










I've attempted to collect information on which states have some kind of Gold Star Family license plate. Several states have legislation in progress and I have noted that where I can. Be sure to read the details link as some plates have additional documentation requirements in addition to the application, like form DD 1300, Report of Casualty or an additional affirmation form attesting to your relationship to the fallen soldier.








Those qualifying for the Gold Star plate vary by state from mothers only to extended family members. Check the qualifications carefully.




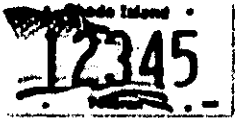





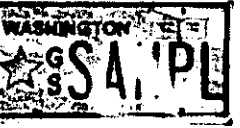
My research is not exhaustive so if you have additional details of pending legislation please **contact me**.




If you are interested in introducing legislation for a Gold Star Family license plate in your own state see my **GSF license plate kit**. I recommend you try to make the qualification requirements as wide as possible to get the greatest number of plates on the road. Using the **DOD qualifications for wearing the Gold Star Pin** will give your legislator a predefined group and ease his work.

	Gold Star Plate Available	More Information	
AL	No		No legislation pending as of 7/08. Many specialty license plates but no GSF plate.
AK		Details1 Details2 Application	
AZ	No		SB 1083 was signed by the Governor on 6/6/08. AZ DOT says the new plate will be available in about a year. Nothing on AZ DOT web site as of 10/7/08.
AR	No		No legislation pending as of 4/08.
CA		Proposed Plate	SB1455 signed by the governor on 9/26/08. See the next entry also.
CA		Veterans Plates GS Mothers Decal GS Wives Decal	A Veterans Plate with a Gold Star Mother or Gold Star Wives decal is available.

CO		Details Application	Called "Fallen Service Member License Plate". There are 5 different versions of the plate, one for each branch of the military.
CT		Details Application	The \$10 plate fee was eliminated 7/2/08.
DC	No		
DE		Application	Details are on the second page of the application.
FL		Details Application	The Gold Star Family plate is at the bottom of the Details page. As of 10/1/08 the requirement that the deceased service member be a resident of Florida at the time of death for the family to qualify for the GSF plate has been removed.
GA		Details	Apply at local county tag office.
HI	No		
ID	No		No bills introduced as of 7/08.
IL		Details Affirmation	
IN	No		HB1350 and SB89 were introduced in the first half of 2007. No new legislation introduced as of 7/08.
IA		Details Application	
KS			HB2691 has been signed by the Governor. Plate is for GS Mothers only. Plate information should be on the Dept of Revenue web site about June, 2008.
KY		Details	Mothers and spouses only.
LA	Yes		SB15 signed by Governor 7/2/08. No information available on OMV web site as of 7/08.
ME	No		No legislation as of 7/08.

MD		Details Application	
MA		Details Application	The House and Senate approved S2352 allowing siblings and grandchildren of veterans who were killed in action to be issued the special "Gold Star Family" license plate. Currently only the parents, children or spouses may be issued the special plates. 11/15/08.
MI	No		SB 1231 has been introduced and referred to Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs on 3/25/08. No further action as of 7/08.
MN	No		Several bills SF1078 , HF0753 , SF0273 , HF0326 introduced in early 2007 but no action as of 7/08.
MS	Coming		SB 2852 signed by Governor on 5/8/08. Effective 7/1/08. No information on State Tax Commission web site as of 7/08.
MO		Details	Near bottom of details page, select "Military" then "Some Gave All".
MT	No		
NE	Maybe		Laws 2007, LB570, § 3 , but is "operative" Jan 1, 2010.
NV	No		No recent legislative activity as of 7/08.
NH			Plate is available only through: New Hampshire Department of Safety Office of the Director 33 Hazen Drive Concord, NH 03305
NJ	No		A2654 , identical S1890 and A2725 were introduced in the 2008-2009 session and are currently (7/08) in their respective transportation committees or the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee. Similar bills died last year in these committees. Contact your legislator to support these bills.
NM	No		No legislation pending as of 4/08.
NY		Details Application	Mothers only.
NC		Details Application	
ND	No		
OH		Details	Many variations available for different conflicts. You will also need BMV 4635 affidavit. List of Deputy Registrars .

OK		Details	Parents only. There is no application form. You must apply directly to the Special Tag Section. More details here .
OR		Details Certification	Call Robin Steckley, (503) 373-2386 for application details.
PA		Details Application	
RI		Existing Veteran plate holders New plate apply at local DMV office	No GS plate but GS parents are entitled to a veterans plate with a GS parent sticker. Note also a property tax exemption for GS parents.
SC		Details Application	See also these other comments .
SD	No		
TN		Details	You must obtain the plate through your county clerk. You will need form DD 1300 report of Casualty. Delivery takes 3-4 days. The Gold Star Mother plate is no longer available.
TX		Details - Mothers Details - Spouse Details - Family Application	Plates are identical except for Gold Star line at bottom.
UT		Details Application	
VT	No		S0241 passed and signed by Governor 5/30/08. Nothing on DMV web site as of 7/08.
VA		Details Application Certification	
WA		Details FAQ's Request for Certification	For parents only, other family members see next entry.
		Details	The spouse of a deceased veteran and certain other

WA	 <p>WASHINGTON GOLD STAR FAMILY SAMPLE</p>	<p>Application More details from Dept of Veterans Affairs</p>	<p>family members are eligible for the Armed Forces license plate. Separate plates are available for each service branch. A Gold Star decal is available for these plates. Check the box on the application.</p>
WV	 <p>West Virginia GS000 GOLD STAR FAMILY</p>	<p>Application</p>	
WI	 <p>WISCONSIN 6000IP GOLD STAR FAMILY</p>	<p>Details Application</p>	
WY	<p>No</p>		

Copyright American Gold Star Mothers, Inc [\[Home\]](#) [\[Site Map\]](#)

Attachment # 3

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 5, 2009

9:00 a.m. Ft. Totten Room

**North Dakota Department of Transportation
Francis Ziegler, Director, ND Department of Transportation**

HB1414

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm Francis Ziegler, Director of the North Dakota Department of Transportation. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present information to you today.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation supports House Bill 1414. This bill provides for a new vehicle license plate for surviving family members of military personnel who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country during a time of conflict.

The provisions of this bill follow the process, funding and distribution of collected funds laid out in the Veteran Plate section of statute. This process is doable, affordable, and reflects positively on our best values, by providing a means to preserve the memories of those we have lost in war, and provides a visible symbol of pride and loss for the loved ones of our fallen military members who remain with us today.

Mr. Chairman, I'll be happy to take your questions at this time.

Attachment # 4

Gold Star Plates

States with Gold Star license plates States with no Gold Star plates Introducing this year.

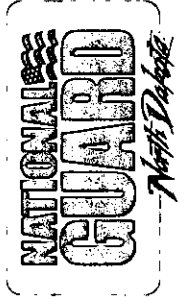
1	Maryland	Indiana	Minnesota
2	South Carolina	Maine	Nevada
3	Arizona	Montana	Arkansas
4	Kentucky	Michigan	New Jersey
5	Iowa	South Dakota (discussing it)	Idaho
6	Pennsylvania	Alabama	W.A.
7	Utah		
8	Vermont		
9	Louisiana		
10	Mississippi		
11	California		
12	North Carolina		
13	Florida		
14	Washington		
15	Georgia		
16	Alaska		
17	Massachusetts		
18	New Hampshire		
19	Oregon		
20	Illinois		
21	Rhode Island		
22	West Virginia		
23	Virginia		
24	Ohio- started this year.		
25	Wisconsin		
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*Results of e-mail poll to all state directors of Veterans Affairs.
 Lonnie Wangen Commissioner of Veterans Affairs

Attachment # 5

North Dakota National Guard

All gave some, Some gave all.



January 24, 2004

Staff Sergeant Kenneth Hendrickson
557th North-South Bridge Company



September 22, 2004

Staff Sergeant Lance Kocouly
Company 6, 1st Engineer Combat Battalion



June 6, 2006

Corporal Curtis Meiner
1st Battalion, 688th Air Defense Artillery



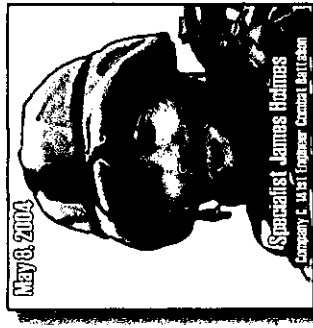
November 29, 2006

Corporal Chris Tomber Kleinwachter
1st Battalion, 688th Air Defense Artillery



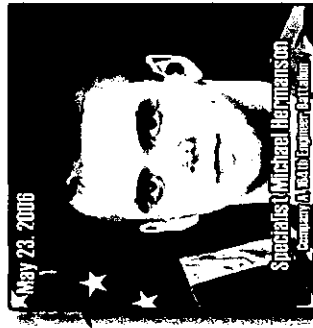
January 24, 2004

Sergeant Keith Spierke
557th North-South Bridge Company



May 8, 2004

Specialist James Holmes
Company 1, 1st Engineer Combat Battalion



May 23, 2006

Specialist Michael Williamson
Company 2, 1st Engineer Combat Battalion



November 23, 2006

Corporal Nathan Goodrum
1st Battalion, 688th Air Defense Artillery



July 22, 2003

Specialist John Forting
557th North-South Bridge Company



June 8, 2004

Specialist Philip Burton
Company 1, 1st Engineer Combat Battalion



November 4, 2004

Specialist Cody Wentz
Company 1, 1st Engineer Combat Battalion



June 6, 2006

Sergeant Travis Van Zest
1st Battalion, 688th Air Defense Artillery

HB 1414

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Transportation Committee.

For the record my name is Rep. Lisa Meier from District 32.

I'm here today to introduce HB1414.

HB1414 issues Gold Star License plates for surviving members of fallen members of the United States military.

This bill is a small token of appreciation that we can deliver to honor the legacy of those brave men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.


The symbol of the Gold Star dates back to WWI, when families had a member serving in the armed forces, during wartime. They flew in their windows a little flag with a blue star on it. If their soldier, sailor, or Marine, had died, that blue star was replaced with a gold star.

Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, many states have passed this legislation to honor families of veterans and I have passed around some information.

There are others here to testify on this legislation including individuals from our Armed Forces and from the Department of Transportation to explain the distribution of the license plates.

I want to express my gratitude to the individuals here that have been directly impacted with the loss of a service man or women!

Mr. Chairman that concludes my testimony and I ask for a favorable Do pass.



Thank you.



Gold Star Plates

States with Gold Star license plates States with no Gold Star plates Introducing this year.

1	Maryland	Indiana	Minnesota
2	South Carolina	Maine	Nevada
3	Arizona	Montana	Arkansas
4	Kentucky	Michigan	New Jersey
5	Iowa	South Dakota (discussing it)	Idaho
6	Pennsylvania	Alabama	
7	Utah		
8	Vermont		
9	Louisiana		
10	Mississippi		
11	California		
12	North Carolina		
13	Florida		
14	Washington		
15	Georgia		
16	Alaska		
17	Massachusetts		
18	New Hampshire		
19	Oregon		
20	Illinois		
21	Rhode Island		
22	West Virginia		
23	Virginia		
24	Ohio- started this year.		
25	Wisconsin		
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*Results of e-mail poll to all state directors of Veterans Affairs.
Lonnie Wangen Commissioner of Veterans Affairs

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
March 5, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
Lewis & Clark Room

North Dakota Department of Transportation
Linda Butts, Deputy Director for Driver and Vehicle Services

HB1414

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm Linda Butts, Deputy Director for Driver and Vehicle Services at the North Dakota Department of Transportation. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present information to you today.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation supports House Bill 1414. This bill provides for a new vehicle license plate for surviving family members of military personnel who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country during a time of conflict.

The provisions of this bill follow the process, funding and distribution of collected funds laid out in the Veteran Plate section of statute. This process is doable, affordable, and reflects positively on our best values, by providing a means to preserve the memories of those we have lost in war, and provides a visible symbol of pride and loss for the loved ones of our fallen military members who remain with us today.

Mr. Chairman, I'll be happy to take your questions at this time.