

**SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
SENATOR SHAWN VEDAA, CHAIR  
MARCH 11, 2021**

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**NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION  
PRESENTING TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1435**

Chairman Vedaa and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCR) submits this written testimony in support of House Bill 1435, which provides a modest but potentially very important benefit to eligible family members of a hero who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

The DOCR employs several hundred peace officers, correctional facility staff, and emergency medical services team members in North Dakota. Corrections and law enforcement are time honored professions that are inherently dangerous to the brave few that accept the call to duty, in order to ensure public safety for all citizens of our great state. Thankfully, line of duty deaths are rare for ND DOCR heroes, but nationally corrections and law enforcement lose heroes in the hundreds, each year. In 2020, the Great State of North Dakota lost one hero, a peace officer in the line of duty.

Chairman Vedaa and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, we ask that you support House Bill 1435 and provide the eligible surviving family members of our heroes that lost their lives in the line of duty this additional benefit.