

March 31, 2025

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill (SB) 95

I am a retired U.S. Army Major who served 20 years during the cold war era. Members of the Nevada National Guard are invaluable members of our armed forces. Since Desert Storm, members of the Guard have served in great numbers beside our active-duty forces in every conflict. The idea of “weekend warrior” has long disappeared. In addition to federal activations and deployment to combat zones, Nevada National Guard members also have a state mission, under the command of the Governor, to provide assistance during natural disasters to civil unrest. They have volunteered for both levels of service. They have not volunteered to surrender their rights if charged with a crime.

During my military service I administered Article 15 proceeding numerous times as a company commander. I never had an individual ask for a court martial. The main reason, punishment, if found guilty, is far more severe than what can be given under Article 15. From what I have read but not verified, the potential for a request for court martial should SB95 pass and be enacted are equally as slim.

The fiscal note assumes a full court martial process. However, an individual charged has the right to request a trial by judge only.

From reading media reports, the opposition to this bill centers on the potential, not guaranteed, cost. Cost is not justification to deny such an important right to someone who has volunteered to put their life on the line in defense of Nevada and the United States.

I hope this committee will demonstrate a commitment to those who have volunteered to serve our state and nation and vote “do pass” to advance SB95.

Douglas E. Goodman
MAJ (Ret), USA
775-315-6343