

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

April 2, 2025

Fred Wagar

**Departments of Veterans of Foreign Wars and
Disabled American Veterans**

SENATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

GOOD AFTERNOON CHAIR FLORES, VICE CHAIR ORENSCHAL AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

FOR THE RECORD, I AM FRED WAGAR (F.R.E.D. W.A.G.A.R.),

I REPRESENT THE NEARLY 15,000 MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS OF NEVADA. WHEN YOU INCLUDE THEIR FAMILIES, THAT'S ABOUT 50,000 NEVADANS.

THE VFW AND DAV SUPPORT SB 95 BECAUSE IT SEEKS TO RESTORE THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS TO DEMAND A COURT-MARTIAL WHEN FACING SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT. THIS BILL IS NOT MERELY ABOUT PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS; IT IS ABOUT ENSURING JUSTICE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND THE PROTECTION OF THOSE WHO SERVE OUR STATE AND NATION.

CURRENTLY, NEVADA IS ONE OF ONLY A FEW STATES WHERE NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS LACK THE RIGHT TO DEMAND A COURT-MARTIAL. MILITARY COMMANDERS OFTEN CONDUCT NON-JUDICIAL PUNISHMENT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, WITHOUT THE SAFEGUARDS OF A TRADITIONAL TRIAL. GUARD MEMBERS ACCUSED OF MISCONDUCT FACE LIFE-ALTERING PENALTIES, INCLUDING DEMOTION,

CONFINEMENT, LOSS OF PAY, AND EVEN DISCHARGE, WITHOUT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A FAIR TRIAL. THIS LACK OF DUE PROCESS UNDERMINES THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AND ERODES TRUST IN THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM.

WE URGE YOU TO SUPPORT SENATE BILL 95 AND RESTORE THE RIGHT TO DEMAND A COURT-MARTIAL FOR NEVADA NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS. LET US HONOR THEIR SERVICE BY ENSURING THAT THEY ARE AFFORDED THE SAME LEGAL PROTECTION AS EVERY OTHER CITIZEN.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION. WE URGE YOU TO VOTE FOR THIS BILL IN HONOR OF NEVADA'S SERVICE MEMBERS.

THANK YOU.