

2023 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1354

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Room JW327E, State Capitol

HB 1354
1/20/2023

A bill relating to designating the overpass on United States Highway 281 as the Hidden Wounds Veterans overpass.
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Chairman D. Ruby opened the hearing at 9:39 AM.

Members present: Chairman Ruby, Vice Chairman Grueneich, Representatives Anderson, Christensen, Dyk, Frelich, Hauck, Koppelman, Murphy, Timmons, Wagner, Weisz, Dakane, Dobervich. No members absent.

Discussion Topics:

- Bridge name change
- Bridge location clarification
- North Dakota Fallen Soldier Tribute
- Soldier suicide statistics
- Committee action

Jim Nelson, North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council, testified in support (#14757).

Jamie Morlock, sister of veteran, verbally testified in support.

Gail Wanner, father of veteran, verbally testified in support.

Chairman D. Ruby closed the hearing at 9:52 AM.

Representative Koppelman moved a Do Pass.

Representative Murphy seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Jim Grueneich	Y
Representative Karen A. Anderson	Y
Representative Cole Christensen	Y
Representative Hamida Dakane	Y
Representative Gretchen Dobervich	Y
Representative Scott Dyk	Y
Representative Kathy Frelich	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Ben Koppelman	Y
Representative Eric James Murphy	Y

Representative Kelby Timmons	Y
Representative Scott Wagner	Y
Representative Robin Weisz	Y

Motion Carried 14-0-0 Carrier: Representative Murphy

Additional testimony:

Lonnie Wangen, ND Department of Veterans Affairs

#14318

Representative Ruby adjourned 9:55 AM.

Mary Brucker, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1354: Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1354 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2023 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

HB 1354

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

SB 1354
3/2/2023

A BILL for an Act, relating to designating the overpass on United States highway 281 as the hidden wounds veteran's overpass; and to provide a continuing appropriation.
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9:52 AM Chairman Clemens called the hearing to order.

Chairman Clemens, Senators Conley, Larsen, Paulson, Rummel were present.

Discussion Topics:

- Sacrifices
- Remembrances
- Hidden wounds
- Suicide
- Veterans Memorial Bridge
- Mental health
- Survivors guilt

9:53 AM Representative Satrom introduced the bill.

9:59 AM Jim Nelson, Legislative Director North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council, testified. #21752

10:05 AM Beth Lutt, Citizen, testified verbally.

10:07 AM Gail Wanner, Citizen, testified verbally.

Additional written testimony:

Lonnie Wangen, #21310

10:10 AM Chairman Clemens adjourned the hearing.

Patricia Wilkens, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HB 1354
3/2/2023

A BILL for an Act relating to designating the overpass on United States highway 281 as the hidden wounds veteran's overpass; and to provide a continuing appropriation.

10:30 AM Committee Work

Chairman Clemens, Senators Conley, Larsen, Paulson, Rummel were present.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

10:31 AM Senator Conley moved a **DO PASS** on **HB 1354**

10:31 AM Senator Larson seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator David A. Clemens	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Doug Larsen	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Dean Rummel	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0

Senator Conley will carry the bill.

10:31 AM Chairman Clemens adjourned the hearing.

Patricia Wilkens, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1354: Transportation Committee (Sen. Clemens, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1354 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

TESTIMONY

HB 1354

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North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

1/20/2023

**House Transportation Committee
68th Legislative Session
Representative Ruby-Chair**

Chairman Ruby and House Transportation Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1354

Intent of this bill...

- Provide lasting recognition and appreciation to the North Dakota Service Men and Women who have died from the hidden wounds they brought home from war.

Need for bill...

- Recognition for the family and friends they left behind
- Community involvement in the process

I support this bill and encourage the ND 68th Legislative Assembly to allow all bridges in ND be named after a Fallen ND Service Man or Woman.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA

HB1354

Hidden wounds in the military is a polite way to talk about suicide. In the years since 9/11 estimates are that 30,117 suicides have occurred in the military compared to 7957 who died in combat. If a soldier gets physically wounded' he knows that he'll see or be taken to a Doctor who will patch him. The wounds that are hidden are not that simple to treat. In the military you are expected to be a man and traditionally that meant to except the pain and carry on. In spite of, the military saying that talking about what's bothering us is okay to do, todays soldier continues traditional mentally. Solders coming home wars rarely if ever talk about there feelings. They have seen and done things that would seem horrible to most of the civilian population. In recent times these horrors are repeated deployment after deployment and even reentry into civilian life further complicates things. This bridge naming will act as memorial to the afar to many North Dakotans whose pain became so

great, and the nightmares too real, and repetitive they took their own life. These men and possibly some women for whatever reason were unable to let the war behind, instead it followed them. By passing this bill will show their families and friends that whether we agree or not with the solution take, we care and will unceasingly work to find a solution to PTSD related suicides and suicide in general. The North Dakota Legislative Council strongly and unanimously supports passage of this bill

HB 1354

North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

3/02/2023

Senate Transportation Committee
68th Legislative Session
Senator Clemens-Chair

Senator Clemens and Senate Transportation Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1354

Intent of this bill...

- Provide lasting recognition and appreciation to the North Dakota Service Men and Women who currently suffer from or have died from the hidden wounds they brought home from war.

Need for bill...

- Recognition that ND is aware of the hidden wounds of war
- Recognition for the family and friends they left behind
- Community involvement in the process

I support this bill and encourage the ND 68th Legislative Assembly to allow all bridges in ND be named after a Fallen ND Service Man or Woman.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA

HB1354

Hidden wounds in the military is a polite way to talk about suicide. In the years since 9/11 estimates are that 30,117 suicides have occurred in the military compared to 7957 who died in combat. If a soldier gets physically wounded' he knows that he'll see or be taken to a Doctor who will patch him. The wounds that are hidden are not that simple to treat. In the military you are expected to be a man and traditionally that meant to except the pain and carry on. In spite of, the military saying that talking about what's bothering us is okay to do, todays soldier continues traditional mentally. Solders coming home wars rarely if ever talk about there feelings. They have seen and done things that would seem horrible to most of the civilian population. In recent times these horrors are repeated deployment after deployment and even reentry into civilian life further complicates things. This bridge naming will act as memorial to the afar to many North Dakotans whose pain became so

great, and the nightmares too real, and repetitive they took their own life. These men and possibly some women for whatever reason were unable to let the war behind, instead it followed them. By passing this bill will show their families and friends that whether we agree or not with the solution take, we care and will unceasingly work to find a solution to PTSD related suicides and suicide in general. The North Dakota Legislative Council strongly and unanimously supports passage of this bill