



Sponsor Testimony: House Bill 378

Representative Nick Santucci, 64th House District

House Ways and Means Committee

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on House Bill 378.

There is no group within our society more deserving of our support and gratitude than our uniformed service members and first responders. The people who take on these roles are prepared each day to make the ultimate sacrifice for us, the members of their country or community.

People who work so valiantly to promote the well-being of others should not be left to worry about their families in the event of their death. It is important to ensure that the families of our service members and first responders who are killed in the line of duty are able to grieve and to honor the memory of their family member without facing housing insecurity, in addition to the terrible pain resulting from the loss of a loved one.

House Bill 378 seeks to address this issue by extending existing homestead exemptions. It allows the surviving spouse of a uniformed service member killed in the line of duty to receive an exemption equal to the total amount of the current year's taxes that are assessed against the homestead.

This exemption continues until the death of the surviving spouse, and applies even if the surviving spouse remarries, helping to relieve them of the burden of property tax. Through the introduction of this bill, we hope to provide some additional support to our gold star families and to show our appreciation for the many sacrifices that they make for others every day.

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you again for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 378. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.