



RACHAEL A. CABRAL-GUEVARA

STATE SENATOR • 19TH SENATE DISTRICT

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Labor, Regulatory Reform, Veterans and Military Affairs

Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara

March 6, 2024

Hello, members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Regulatory Reform, Veterans and Military Affairs. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on Senate Bill 383, an important bill extending identification (ID) designations to our Hmong veterans.

Current law on veteran IDs does not take into account the brave Hmong veterans who fought alongside us and became naturalized citizens as a result of the Vietnam War. These soldiers, who aided American servicemen, have earned the right to be recognized for their service.

This bill will add Hmong veterans admitted to the United States under the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act to the definition of "veteran" for the purposes of the status on state ID cards. These folks are our neighbors, friends, and family that have made important contributions to our communities and answered the call to serve.

I am hopeful you will be able to support this important step in recognizing Hmong veterans and their service fighting the spread of communism.



SHAE SORTWELL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 2nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Hearing Testimony
Senate Committee on Labor, Regulatory Reform, Veterans and Military Affairs
March 6, 2024
Senate Bill 383

Chairman Testin and members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Regulatory Reform, Veterans and Military Affairs – thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on SB 383, relating to indication of Hmong veteran status on an operator's license or identification card.

Since 2014, veterans in our state have had the option to identify themselves and their service to our country with a red "VETERAN" identifier printed on their Wisconsin driver license or state identification card from the Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Under current law, this veterans' designation is only available to specific individuals who have served in the U.S. armed forces. SB 383 expands that designation to be available to Hmong-Lao Wisconsinites who fought alongside the U.S. military in Vietnam to stop the spread of communism.

Under this bill, for the purposes of designation on a driver license, the definition of "veteran" would include any person who was admitted to the United States under the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act for his service to our country and the cause of freedom.

SB 383 was drafted as a floor amendment last session to a different bill, which received unanimous support in the Assembly. This legislation has again received unanimous support in the Assembly this session.

This legislation is supported by the American Legion and would not create any new costs for our state agencies.

I want to thank the committee for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions members may have.