

## Testimony of Noah Jennings in favor of AB118

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I thank you for allowing me to be here this morning. My name is Noah Jennings, and I am here representing myself as a citizen of this state. I would like to thank Assemblyman Daly for sponsoring this bill. Many of you know me from seeing and speaking to me around the building as a correspondent for the Elko Daily Free Press. What you may not know is that I am also a proud Soldier of the Nevada Army National Guard.

On August 11, 2015, I turned 17. That same day, I walked into the office of Sergeant First Class Ted Ziegenfuss and placed my enlistment packet, complete with the signatures of my mother and father, on his desk. One month later, on September 11, 2015, I raised my right hand and repeated the Oath of Enlistment. I went through basic training and the United States Army Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in Echo Company, 795<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion. Six months after leaving, I returned home to serve my state in the 485<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company.

Part of being an MP and graduating from USAMPS is taking the Military Police Oath. In doing so, I swore to assist, protect, and defend my fellow Soldiers, service members, their family members, and all civilians entrusted under my care. As Military Police Officers, we often serve as every day law enforcement. Being activated in state, many of our Soldiers put themselves out there in the community in the same way that civilian law enforcement does. The only difference is civilian law enforcement is protected by the National Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act. Military Police Officers who don't meet the conditions prescribed by the Department of Defense to get an ID compatible with LEOSA do not.

If we are out there, working as law enforcement, putting ourselves in danger to assist, protect and defend just as the civil authorities do, I believe we deserve the same protections they do.

Furthermore, we live in an increasingly dangerous world. The military actually encourages service members **not** to project their service on social media and other venues. The reason? Because terrorist organizations are beginning to utilize social media to find and target service members and their families. Now, anyone who joins should be proud of their service and be able to post without fear of an attack on them or their family, but the reality is that we cannot track down every extremist who may threaten our people. The solution? To give us the ability to protect ourselves.

Each day, thousands of men and women under 21 go to work wearing the uniform of our nation, with the flag on their shoulder. These are my brothers and sisters, and many cannot be here today because they are working to defend our freedom. In combat zones, we are allowed to carry our weapon to protect ourselves. Please give us the same abilities at home. Thank you for your time, and your service to this state.

Yours in Service,

Noah L. Jennings