



(DES MOINES)—In partnership with the Iowa National Guard, in 2005 the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) launched the Military Service Member Homeownership Program. In 2006 and each following year, the Legislature has allocated additional funds for this program. The Military Service Member Homeownership Program provides grants of \$5,000 toward the purchase of a home to military personnel who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001.

Rep. Annette Sweeney (R-Alden) recognized some limits to the program and set out to correct them. Under Sweeney's bill, House File 2148, military members will have more options for lending and it will be easier for them to achieve the lowest loan rate possible when purchasing their new home.

"I have a great deal of respect for the sacrifices made by our military members and their families," said Rep. Sweeney. "I saw a small problem with this current program and wanted to make sure that these service members were getting the best options."

Since its inception, over 1600 Iowa service members have taken advantage of the program. Rep. Sweeney's bill passed both the Iowa House and Senate unanimously. The bill was then signed into law by Governor Chet Culver on March 22, 2010.

Rep. Sweeney is pictured here with Radcliffe native, Heath Stolee. Heath is a soldier who brought the bill idea to Rep. Sweeney.