

Central Oregon Veterans Outreach (COVO)

HB 4027

TALKING POINTS FOR REP. GENE WHISNANT

- Health Care providers do not need to be educated about the provisions of ORS 676.340 and 676.345 and related provisions that allow them to register with their licensing boards and perform volunteer work.
- These health care providers, to a person, tell us want something more that specifically provides immunity for engaging in health care outreach outside of typical clinical settings – such as providing care for homeless veterans in homeless camps.
- Section 2(B) of HB 4027 contains a specific restriction that excludes medical and dental services from the definition of “outreach services”. The doctors, dentists and nurses tell us this is death knell – it will drive them away from volunteering because of the negative language.
- The provisions of the Federal Volunteer Act do not fill the gaps in existing Oregon law. In fact, the gaps in the Federal Volunteer Act both create and justify a need for specific Oregon legislation like Section 2 of HB 4027.
- Notwithstanding Section 1, HB 4027 that makes reference to “Charitable organizations” versus “Charitable corporations, the section that helps homeless veterans (Section 2), carries specifies that volunteers have to be registered with “nonprofit corporations” for the protections to apply.
- If Section 2 needs to be applied to specific organizations in Central Oregon, this is a partial list:
 - Central Oregon Veterans Outreach
 - Bethlehem Inn (Bend)
 - Shepherd’s House (Bend)
 - Partnership to End Poverty
 - Neighbor Impact
 - Bend’s Community Center
 - Jericho’s Tables (Redmond)
 - Full Circle Outreach (Redmond)
 - Madras Gospel Mission
 - LaPine Community Kitchen
 - Central Oregon Homeless Leadership Coalition
 - City Care (Bend)
 - Band of Brothers (Bend, Redmond, LaPine, Prineville, Sisters)
 - Volunteers in Medicine
 - Mosaic Medical