



February 19, 2019

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners**  
**Policy Position**  
**SB 500: Property tax exemptions for certain veterans**

**Clackamas County supports SB 500:** The Board of County Commissioners supports SB 500, which grants a property tax exemption for eligible veterans or surviving spouses of eligible veterans.

Clackamas County is proud to serve its returning veterans and also support family members who have lost loved ones to military conflict. In 2016, Clackamas County reaffirmed its Veterans Covenant – a pledge made with its cities, state legislative delegation members, and others to ensure appropriate local resources would be made available to support returning veterans. Returning from conflict should not be burdensome to those who volunteered to serve in the military, and while many resources exist to support returning veterans with reentering civilian life, more can always be done to protect and support those who fight for our freedom.

Between July 2017 and June 2018, the Clackamas County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) supported veterans with over 1,776 claims to the VA, and helped secure more than \$7 million in federal benefits for Clackamas County veterans. Support comes in many forms, but housing is certainly one of the most important.

SB 500 is a notable step towards ensuring veterans are receiving support to stay in homes and also aims to reduce one of the barriers that can lead to homelessness for low income veterans. It can also provide an incentive for homeless veterans or veterans in unstable housing conditions to work towards a permanent living situation. Clackamas County is also pleased that SB 500 ensures that surviving spouses are also cared for through this legislation.

**We urge a “yes” vote for SB 500.**

Please contact Chris Lyons at [clyons@clackamas.us](mailto:clyons@clackamas.us) for more information.