



## **Testimony in Support of House Bill 2886**

March 4, 2019

Chair Barker and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee:

My name is Dan Weber and I am a Corporal at the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP). I am also the President of the Association of Oregon Corrections Employees (AOCE). AOCE represents about 800 men and women working for DOC at the maximum security OSP, the medium security Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI) and two minimum-security institutions – Mill Creek Correctional Facility (MCCF) and South Fork Forest Camp (SFFC).

In 2017 AOCE member, Officer Jacob Ray, attempted to use his Veteran's Administration Disabled Veterans Civil Service Preference Letter to receive his veteran preference points in his Corporal application process. The Department of Corrections (DOC) denied him the preference points, arguing his years of service did not meet the statutory definition of veteran. DOC explained his time in the Army National Guard of Oregon did not qualify as service in the Armed Forces based on the language of ORS 408.225 and OAR 839-006-0440(2). In spite of the fact the VA does not issue a disabled veteran letter unless the individual qualifies as a veteran, DOC would not grant Officer Ray his veterans preference points.

AOCE supports all of its veteran members, including Officer Ray. No individual should be denied their veteran preference points due to a loophole in the statutory definition.

I urge you to support House Bill 2886.

Thank you,  
Cpl. Dan Weber  
AOCE President