



**CITY of BEAVERTON**  
**Office of the Mayor**  
**LACEY BEATY**

May 13, 2021  
House Subcommittee on Civil Law  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Senate Bill 5528 Relating to the financial administration of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission**

Good afternoon Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, Members of the Joint Ways and means subcommittee on Education,

My name is lacey beaty and I am the Mayor of Beaverton, however, I am writing to you as a proud active duty combat veteran and wife of an active duty national guardsmen. I want to encourage you to fully support the state tuition assistance program. Up until a few years ago, Oregon was one of only a handful states that did not fund Guard National Education and the legislature fixed that and now to see a reduction in that during this year's budget proposal is disappointing.

There's a misunderstanding that anyone who serve in an active military capacity is eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill. However, you must meet a steep threshold of active duty months to access this important fiscal benefit. Because of the modern uses of the National Guard, such as responding to local, national, and international disasters, and other important duties, very few of them ever attain the number of hours necessary to receive the Montgomery GI Bill.

One of the biggest threats to financial security is student loan debt. In supporting those who support our state is the right step for upward mobility for them and for their families.

My husband and I are both first generation college graduates. We were able to access all levels of educational supports provided by the military. This in turn lead to our ability to attain graduate degrees, purchase a home, volunteer within our community and start a family. If you ever thanked a veteran for their service, you should thank them by supporting their education.

Sincerely,

Lacey Beaty  
Mayor