

3/21/2023

To: Senate Committee on Finance & Revenue
From: Robert Sanders
Subject: Support for SB540

Chair Mark Meek, Vice Chair Brian Boquist and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue, My name is Robert M. Sanders, and I am joining my fellow veterans in support of SB540.

As a person who currently works in Social Services, there is an undeniable reality that our system fails to provide the care deserved to the countless veterans who have served our country honorably.

I am writing this letter of support with the understanding that there are currently more than 1400 homeless veterans wandering the streets and trying to find a way to access the same support that saved my life.

Many of these veterans survive on a limited income and have been heavily impacted by the growing housing crisis within the state. I am urging our lawmakers to take action toward relieving undue stress on them, as no person that takes an oath for our country and community deserves to be discarded upon their return.

I am urging this action to be one of many, as we move towards providing Peer Support and Re-Entry navigation - building a comprehensive system of Human Services built intentionally on making reacclimation a reality for those of us who return home with physical and invisible disabilities from our service.

Thank you for your time, consideration and commitment in ensuring that Oregon remains a state that truly flies with her own wings.