

HB 2147 Testimony in support on behalf of AOC- Association of Oregon Counties

Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

Public Hearing April 20, 2023

Dear Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Thatcher and members of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs:

My name is Anna Braun with Braun Law LLC representing Association of Oregon Counties (AOC). **AOC supports HB 2147 as is. AOC is not requesting any amendments.**

The AOC legislative committee considered HB 2147 at their meeting on April 10th and, at that time, decided to support HB 2147 with the addition of three amendments. The three amendments were that the database in the bill should be a statewide database, statewide training should be provided by ODVA and a small grant program or general fund support should cover the cost to implement the program especially for smaller counties.

However, since that meeting ODVA has shared their interpretation of the language of the bill. ODVA has stated that they interpret this requirement to mean that the information can be collected on a basic spreadsheet, such as Excel, and that the information would be collected from the funeral homes for processing requests through USDVA. In addition, ODVA has agreed to do the training program on how to process unclaimed remains. This training would be available to all VSOs virtually to ensure it is training at no cost to county offices.

With these clarifications the costs to the counties should be minimal and we no longer require a small grant program to counties to implement this program. Therefore, AOC is in support of HB 2147 with no amendments.

AOC urges this committee to support HB 2147 as is.

Thank you

Anna Braun

Braun Law LLC

On behalf of AOC Governance, Revenue and Veterans steering committee