



Veteran Advocates of Ore-Ida

www.veteranadvocates.org

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Wednesday April 19th, 2023

Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez
And Members of Ways and Means Committee
Oregon

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and Members of Ways and Means Committee:

I send this letter of support to you so you understand that the two Bills SB 5524 and HB 2908 will allow Treasure Valley Community Collage Small Business Development Center to continue supporting 501c3's and small businesses in Eastern Oregon with much needed funding. As past Mayor of Ontario and present Chairman of Veteran Advocates of Ore-Ida my support of these two Bills underscores the tremendous positive impact that our local SBDC under the direction of Andrea Testi has had on our community.

Without this additional funding from SB 5524 and HB 2908 many programs and services offered by SBDC will be curtailed and/or cut before they even start.

I am very proud that we here in Ontario have the very best SBDC in the state and many others will be able to learn from our programs and be able to develop if the monies are available from these two Bills.

I would also like to add that our veteran community also has been the recipient of many of the services offered locally and if you take the time to talk with Andrea Testi or Michael Braden they will give you the numbers of the economic impact and human capital that has been infused into our community because of SBDC.

I know that these two Bills are going to help ALL SBDC's throughout the state and because we are a border community and some of that money will go locally, it will help our community to compete with Idaho, and that will be great!

As a side note: Veteran Advocates of Ore-Ida has gotten its start with the help and direction of TVCC/SBDC and has grown to be a major player in the industry of 'Veteran Support' because of the help of the team that Andrea Testi has put together.

As past Mayor I commend SBDC for making our community a better place to do business and to start one that will be able to flourish with their help.

I am sure that the monies invested from the funding of these two Bills will come back many fold to Oregon and will be a great asset to our state.

Thank You for Your Time,

Ronald Verini, Chairman, Veteran Advocates of Ore-Ida,
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