

April 20, 2023

Senator James I. Manning Jr., Chair  
Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal  
and World Affairs  
900 Court Street NE S-209  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: HB 2146

Dear Senator Manning,

My father was a brave Army soldier who loved his country and fought to protect his young wife and baby daughter. That baby was me! But a real family we did not become as my father, John William Williamson, was killed in the line of duty bringing munitions to his troops. He almost made it home as the war ended six weeks after his death.

My mother grieved his loss for the rest of her life – my Dad, the person I did not get to have to love and parent me, was forever gone from us.

The **Gold Star Families Memorial Highway** proposed by HB 2146 will memorialize the loss so many of us have experienced and will never forget. It is an appropriate honor to those who have paid the ultimate price for their service and to the family members they left behind.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions from your Committee. Thank you.

Respectfully,

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