



Oregon Women's Rights Coalition

SB 540/515 Veterans Subtraction of Pension Benefits-Oppose

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Boquist and members of the committee

OWRC values the services veterans provided to our nation. However, Oregon is already quite generous to many of these valued people.

Oregon is home to 265,325 veterans according to the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs.

Oregon in 1945 instituted a state home loan program. Currently there are approximately 1400 loans. A loan can be made on up to \$766,550 home. Veterans can obtain up to 4 loans in their lifetime.

Veterans have an employment preference point program in Oregon which requires state, county and local governments to offer a veteran a job if they score equal to any other candidate.

There are 40,000 property tax accounts in Oregon giving lower income Oregon veterans with a disability an exemption of \$24,071 for 40% or more of disability and \$28,886 if the disability is service connected. The deferral transfers to a spouse if they do not remarry. The amount deferred grows by three percent per year.

There is a state Veterans Bridge Grant to help veterans with education grants.

Veterans and their families may qualify for preference in Oregon Workforce training and education programs.

Oregon provides for direct professional licensing related to the training received while in the military.

And outside the building, at the corner of Court and Cottage, a veteran's apartment building is almost complete with major funding from the state of Oregon.

The current SB 1549 would provide a subtraction from federal adjusted income up to \$17,500 for veterans until attaining the age of 63.

Using the Federal Veterans Administration figures in their state data publications 46.3 % of Oregon veterans have a household income of more than \$50,000 up to \$199,000.

It is estimated that there are approximately 1460 houseless veterans in Oregon. And 7.7% of veterans in Oregon live in poverty.

OWRC urges you to carefully consider the future of very vulnerable Oregon veterans before you advance this bill. Perhaps the savings by not offering this subtraction to retired veterans could be used to help those Oregon veterans who are not as well situated.

Marcia Kelley

Public Policy Advocate

mail: owrcadvocacy@gmail.com PO Box 957. Clackamas OR 97051