

Submitter: Roger Payne

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB4139

Honorable Representatives of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

I am a Navy veteran of the Vietnam and Cold War era. You all know or have heard reported that the suicide rate for military veterans is extremely high, with the State of Oregon ranked double the national average in rate of veteran suicide. Oregon also ranks near the top of the nation in drug use while being at the bottom for mental health treatment. Frankly, these statistics are shocking. Seven years ago a requirement for a "Certificate of Need" stopped a hospital from being built in Wilsonville. This facility would have provided much-needed mental healthcare and drug treatment, serving Veterans in one wing and civilians on the other wing. But because of bureaucratic requirements, it was never built.

If we want to get serious about helping our Veteran and mentally ill populations in Oregon, we have to start by removing roadblocks for people of good will who actually want to fix the problems. Please lend your support to House Bill 4139, to allow mental health and addiction clinics to be built without having to get permission from Oregon Health Administration and be granted a Certificate of Need.

Thank you for reading my written testimony.

Roger Payne
Oregon City
Proud Navy Veteran