



# House Bill 2441: Ensuring Full Tuition Waivers for Veteran Dependents

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PUBLIC HEARING - FEBRUARY 13, 2025

# The Problem



- ▶ Currently, tuition waivers for dependents of deceased or disabled veterans and Purple Heart recipients are offset by federal aid scholarships or grants. This means federal aid is applied to tuition instead of covering books, fees, room, and board.
- ▶ HB 2441 aims to ensure these federal aids do not reduce the tuition waiver amount.

# Real-World Impact



- ▶ Families of veterans struggle with tuition and living expenses.
- ▶ Federal grants meant for books, fees, and housing are instead reducing tuition waivers.
- ▶ Creates financial hardship for students trying to complete higher education.

# Proposed Solution

## HB 2441

- ▶ Modify ORS 350.285 to state that tuition waivers 'may not be reduced' by federal aid scholarships or grants.
- ▶ Ensures full tuition coverage by public universities.
- ▶ Allows federal grants to be used for books, fees, and living expenses.
- ▶ Maintains the intent of the tuition waiver without creating excessive refunds.

# Effect of HB 2441

- ▶ Changes tuition waivers from 'last dollar' to 'first dollar'.
- ▶ Public universities will waive full tuition and fees.
- ▶ Students can use federal grants for additional education-related expenses.
- ▶ Ensures Oregon remains a leader in supporting military families.

# What's at Stake if We Do Nothing?

- ▶ Families of veterans will continue to struggle with tuition costs.
- ▶ Oregon risks falling behind in veteran support compared to other states.
- ▶ Students may take on unnecessary debt to cover living expenses.
- ▶ The intent of tuition waivers will be undermined.

# Conclusion & Call to Action

- ▶ House Bill 2441 ensures full tuition coverage for eligible students without reducing federal aid.
- ▶ Supports military families and honors their sacrifices.
- ▶ Strengthens Oregon's higher education access for dependents of veterans.
- ▶ I urge this committee to vote YES on HB 2441 to support those who served.