

Submitter: JASON GOLDBERG
On Behalf Of: The Children of Service Members and Veterans in OR
Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency
Management, Federal and World Affairs
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB466

My name is Jason Goldberg. I am a combat veteran of ten deployments during the Global War on Terror. I am also parent of two Oregon Summer Star participants who have attended over the past 5 years. I am writing today to express my strong support of Senate Bill 466.

I am a retired Air Force officer who took an oath to support and defend the constitution. Throughout my periods of service and post-service, I've experienced recurring disappointment in the inconsistent support that elected officials and their constituents have provided for my family. The psychological burden that my family, and the families of my fellow-service members, shouldered throughout the duration of my service remains largely unseen and under appreciated. Services that provide support to children of military members and veterans are of critical importance to the nation. The return on investment is difficult to quantify. When military families receive sufficient support, their service members are better able to focus on mission. Children of military members and Veterans are an under-served population that are at higher risk for mental health struggles. When Children of Veterans receive services and support that their parents are not equipped or empowered to provide, post-service re-integration into society is enhanced for the veterans' entire family unit. The outcomes for sustaining these services result in a net positive for veteran families and the population writ large. It is, therefore, in the best interests of the State of Oregon, and the Nation, to sustain all services that support the healing, maturation, and growth of Military/Veteran children. Children who participate in these services are more likely to grow into independent, productive, young adults.

As a primarily National Guard State, Oregon possesses relatively few resources for the children of military members and veterans. An outstanding example of the kind of service worth sustaining is the Oregon Summer Star program. Oregon Summer Star directly serves children of Veterans by providing a community of peers who understand their unique experience and struggles. Connected kids are resilient kids, and Senate Bill 466 would help provide a vital resource for children of Veterans to promote suicide prevention and resilience. For these reasons, I advocate that you vote in support of SB 466.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Jason Goldberg
LtCol USAF (Retired)

Oregon Resident