

Submitter: Pamela Wickstrom

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency
Management, Federal and World Affairs

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB466

I have see first hand how this camp has helped my daughter. Her father, Anthony Scymanky, has served many tours to Iraq and Afghanistan, is a decorated soldier and has logged thousands of miles thru enemy territory. He suffers from major PTSD and pulled out of our daughters life. Oregon Summer Star was her connection to understand her father's actions, be surrounded by military kids that can unnderstand this military life. Counseling and activities helped her thru her teen years. This camp is a life saver. She felt accepted, honored, loved, and heard. If it wasn't for the scholarships I would not have been able to send her, due to a disability that prevents me from working, her father and I were not married.

She is now 22, has a really good job and sends in a donation back every year to Sponsor another military kid. This camp needs to continue because Oregon still has a strong military presence and these kids need this opportunity to be with others in the same life situations as military kids. Ethan and all his counselors have made the positive difference in my daughters life. They support our most overlooked group of kids, they need the stron support of the community, cities, and the state. It takes a village, but in this case a very special camp that makes kids feel like kids for a week. No stress, no worries about their military parent dealing with all thst comes with being a soldier. Please keep this camp, this organization funded.