

Submitter: Floyd Bard
On Behalf Of: Emerald Empire Chapter of MOAA and more
Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency
Management, Federal and World Affairs
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB225

1 February 2025

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On Behalf Of: The Emerald Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of
America

Oregon Trail Chapter, United States Army Warrant Officer Association
(OTC-USAWOA)

Lane County Stand Down for Veterans

Veterans Committee, Eugene Elks #357 and Oregon State Elks
Association

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

Measure SB225

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Committee, thank you for
the opportunity to present our views on this Legislation.

My name is Floyd Bard, CW5 (Ret), USA, ORARNG. I am retired in 2007 from the
Oregon National Guard as the Command Chief Warrant Officer. I served for a total
of 42 years of military service, combined with the United States Naval Reserve,
Active Duty Navy, Oregon Army National Guard, and Active Duty Army. My duties
included serving as the Data Processing Manager for ORARNG, and Liaison Officer
for the Commander of Task Force Phoenix Five, Afghanistan in 2007.

My involvement with Veterans, Veteran Issues, and Organizations that provide
service and support to all levels of Veterans, to include Veterans that are Homeless
are very important to me at many levels. As the current President of the Emerald
Empire Chapter, 1st VP, OTC-USAWOA, Chairman of the Eugene Elks Veterans
Committee and past Chairman of the Lane County Stand Down (which is the largest
Stand Down in Oregon), I see many areas of concern. One of which, is the need for
the State of Oregon to provide legislation that will help Military Veterans with the
ability to support themselves and their families at these times of increased financial
difficulties.

SB225 will help with Veterans and Retired Military Service Members survive increased cost of living, and higher real-estate costs. I believe this is a great start, but, with the limited exemption being at \$17,500 is not enough. Especially with providing this benefit to only those under the age of 63.

Oregon is one of the highest, if not the highest, in personal income tax rates at 9% or higher. With little or no incentives for retired Military Service Members to move to Oregon and with limited or no active duty Military Facilities in Oregon, our State must recognize these issues and promote and open our doors to our HEROES, those who served our Country. It is proven that the Organizations that I represent, support or Veterans and the members of these Organizations are productive members of their communities and can be advocates of promoting more Retired Military Service Members to move to Oregon.

I urge, no I DEMAND the Committee's support of SB225 and to keep the battle on-going for our Veterans.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views. We look forward to working with you and the ODVA to better the lives of those who have served our County faithfully.