

TRAVIS NELSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 44
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 596

February 5, 2025

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Thatcher and members of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs,

My name is Travis Nelson, and I am the State Representative for House District 44 - North and Northeast Portland. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 596, which would allow Oregon veterans to request a waiver for the cost of a Veterans' Recognition license plate. This bill is a meaningful way to honor those who have served our country while providing tangible financial relief to those who need it most.

Oregon's veterans have dedicated their lives to protecting our freedoms, and many continue to face financial hardships, particularly those on fixed incomes or living with service-related disabilities. By waiving the cost of their license plates, we acknowledge their service in a way that is both symbolic and practical. This small financial relief can make a difference for veterans who have already given so much.

Additionally, having the free veterans' plates serve as a visible reminder of the sacrifices made by those who served. When community members see these plates, they are reminded of the individuals behind them—men and women who put their lives on the line for our country. Encouraging veterans to display their service through these plates fosters community engagement, solidarity, and appreciation for their contributions.

Although there are minimal financial impacts within this measure, it is important to recognize that the cost of implementing a waiver is minimal in comparison to the statement it makes - Oregon stands behind its veterans. SB 596 is more than a license plate. It is a symbol that shows respect, gratitude, and tangible support for those who have given so much for us. I urge you to pass this bill and to help ensure that Oregon continues to be a state that honors its veterans.

Thank you and I urge a yes vote on SB 596.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Travis Nelson".

State Representative Travis Nelson
House District 44, North/NE Portland