

Submitter: Sonja Feintech

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB667

Thank you Senators for taking my testimony today.

I am submitting my testimony in support of the Defend The Guard legislation. Defend The Guard legislation is sweeping the country in numerous states, echoing the growing anti-war sentiment from Americans and especially Oregonians who want to keep our essential Oregon National Guardsman here at home.

When we send our National Guard overseas to fight wars unapproved by Congress we are threatening the safety and well being of all Oregonians and neglecting our duty to our National Guard to utilize their skills and assets here at home.

In 2020 during the devastating wildfires here in Oregon our ability to fight back was severely compromised as our National Guard Chinook Helicopters had been sent to the Middle East, instead of stationed here at home. I have spoken to many National Guardsman that are frustrated how often they are deployed overseas when their duty is to protect and serve this state.

Oregon Governors should maintain control of when and how their Guardsman are deployed and only required to send to fight wars overseas when war is officially declared by Congress.

This bill will protect our National Guardsman from unnecessary injury and death, keeping a capable disaster response force here in Oregon when we need them and put pressure on the federal government to go through the proper channels in order to deploy them.

Please support this bill today and pass it through committee. This bill is a reflection of the will of the people and Oregon has the opportunity to be a leader among states pushing through similar Defend The Guard bills.

Thank you for your time.

Sonja Feintech