

Submitter: MARK SHULL

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2559

The different types of discharges from the US military as reflected on the form DD214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty which documents a service member's military service.

Military personnel are held to a high level of performance and conduct. Those who uphold a high level of professionalism will have earned an Honorable Discharge with all the benefits that come with it, such as education, healthcare, financial loans and job assistance to name a few.

The type of discharge is not based on time in service, as HB2559 has suggested for "under honorable conditions". There is a reason the US military recognizes different types of discharge and the benefits, or lack of benefits, that come with each type. The military is about mission accomplishment. That takes professionalism and good conduct. The discharge type is a tool to help with upholding that high degree of performance of duty. Service members work hard to earn an Honorable discharge. Those who receive another type of lesser discharge earned that too based on inferior performance and conduct!!!

The Oregon Legislature and the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs must realize that service members work hard to earn that Honorable discharge, and they know that maintaining a high level of Performance/conduct will ensure they have access to those benefits after discharge from military service.

The idea to award benefits to a veteran who did not earn a discharge type that awards those benefits, but instead awarding benefits based on time in service is in conflict with the purpose of having a hierarchy of discharge types.

I oppose HB2559 as written.

Respectfully,

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