

# Testimony SB 667

**For the record, my name is Diane Linthicum,**

**and I am the State Senator for District 28 which is home to** The 173rd Fighter Wing - a unit of the Oregon Air National Guard, stationed at Kingsley Field Air Base in Klamath Falls

Chair Manning and Committee members:

Thank you for giving this "Defend the Guard" bill a hearing this morning.

SB 667 is known as the Defend the Guard Bill. This is legislation would prohibit the deployment of Oregon's National Guard units into active combat without a formal declaration of war by Congress, as required by Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution.

Members of the National Guard in Oregon ,maintain a unique dual status - both State and Federal - that no other branch of service has.

Defend the guard legislation gives no impediment on the ability of the President or the Governor to activate the National Guard under Title 10 or Title 32, respectively.

This bill clearly defines the Governor's authority to command the National Guard within Oregon.

When Congress votes and approves a formal declaration of war, as required by Article 1, Section 8, the National Guard will have the legal approval to perform combat operations beyond the borders of the United States and under the command of the President as outlined by Title 10 of the US Constitution.

This Defend the Guard bill emphasizes the importance of congressional approval before committing our young people to the trauma of foreign wars.

The federal government has ignored this Constitutional requirement for decades to the detriment of our service members.

SB 667 presents us with the opportunity to save Oregon's National Guard Service members from getting caught in a constitutional quagmire by requiring approval from our US congress.

Thank - you