



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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DATE: March 11, 2025

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

FROM: Jay DeFillipo, Legislative Director, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

SUBJECT: HB 2341 – Relating to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Thatcher and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on HB 2341. This bill was initially introduced in the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans where it was voted out of committee with all yay votes. It had the same support on the House floor.

The sharing of data with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is critical to the advocacy work of the Agency. Data sharing allows our advocates to connect with veterans, many of which are historically underserved such as Women, LGBTQIIA+ and veterans of color. Under current ORS (406.073, 406.073 and 414.044) the Director of Human Services, Early Learning System Director, Director of Transportation and the Director of the Oregon Health Authority is mandated to share veteran contact information with ODVA when authorized by the Veteran.

Current contact information authorized in statutes includes name and address only, requiring ODVA to communicate with veterans solely via U.S. mail. Utilizing e-mail addresses is a cost effect, quicker and modern way of connecting with our veteran population. These agencies currently collect email addresses but lack the statutory authority to share them with ODVA. ODVA Supports HB 2341 as it amends ORS to share veteran emails in addition to name and address.

Thank you for your consideration, and your continued support of Oregon veterans.

Serving Oregon Veterans Since 1945

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs mission is to honor and serve all Oregon veterans and their families by aligning and delivering earned benefits and services that enhance and improve their lives in recognition of their service to our nation.