

Good afternoon Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to be here today. My name is Gordon Hohman. For the record, that is (spelling). I am here today to request your support in our effort to improve access to healthcare for our Veteran Oregonians. I live in Brightwood, I am an Air Force veteran and I work for Do Good Multnomah. We provide shelter and support services for veterans experiencing homelessness or for those who are utilizing VA housing vouchers.

I feel that it is important for me to be here because I can validate how much this bill can help the veterans I support. I interact with veterans who qualify for VA healthcare and daily I watch them disregard their own health, both mental and physical. The reasons vary. For some the barrier is as simple as the VA being too far to travel because they rely on public transit, for others it is the frustration that they may have to schedule many months out just to be seen, and then there are those who distrust a system that they feel has already abandoned them. The examples I provided are only a few of the barriers I have witnessed and experienced myself. Providing alternative options for veterans seeking care would easily alleviate many of these issues.

I believe that HB2537 can be part of a solution. A solution that will not only improve our veterans' quality of life. It will save lives. So I appeal to you today not only as an advocate for the veterans we serve but as an advocate for myself. Please vote in support of HB2537.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Gordon "Grant" Hohman