

Submitter: Joseph Wilson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB808

Please support Senate Bill 808, extending hiring and promotion preferences in public employment to current and former members of the Oregon National Guard, aligning their service with that of active-duty military personnel. Due to definitions in federal and state law and the state-centric nature of title-32 service status, National Guard service does not automatically confer veteran status to Oregon National Guard Service Members. This bill recognizes the invaluable contributions of the Oregon National Guard to the State of Oregon during crises such as wildland fires, floods, and the Coronavirus pandemic, which generally do not convert to credit for veteran's status. By granting these preferences, we can improve recruitment and retention, ensuring a strong and fully-staffed Oregon National Guard ready to serve our communities in times of need. Thank you for considering this important measure.