

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Be Adopted
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Boone, Esquivel, Freeman, Komp, Matthews, Riley, Weidner, Cowan
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	David Molina, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	2/5

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Urges Congress to enact legislation to: assist veterans' employment by expanding the Department of Labor Local Veterans' Employment Representative Program and the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program; establish a nationwide public works program for veterans; and establish a tax credit for employers that hire veterans and businesses that retrain veterans.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Widespread support among Oregon veterans organizations, veterans and their families
- The need to increase funding proportionate to the number of veterans being served
- Memorial already supported by members of the Oregon congressional delegation
- Disproportionate number of veterans unemployed

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** After World War II, an intensive effort to help veterans obtain employment was implemented. One of the first initiatives, the Local Veterans' Employment Representatives Program (LVER), was established by the U.S. Department of Labor and housed in state workforce agencies. The second veteran-employment program, the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP), provides a deeper level of service specifically targeting veterans with significant barriers to employment, such as disability or training needs. In today's highly globalized and fast-paced job market, these employment specialists provide tailored employment services to help veterans with a smooth transition from active duty to successful civilian employment.

During town hall meetings of the Governor's Task Force on Veterans' Services in 2008 task force members were alarmed by the federal budgetary cuts in LVER and DVOP. The current federal funding primarily considers the percentage of veterans registered to find work in Oregon's employment system to the percentage of veterans registered to find work in the U.S. as a whole (Jobs for Veterans Act 2002, Public Law 107-288). Since the number of veterans registered had decreased, this resulted in reductions of funds and lost positions. The five percent drop in funding over the past five years, coupled with a rising cost of operations, resulted in a 45 percent decrease in LVER staff and 18 percent decrease in DVOP staff. The law does not take into account military personnel to be deployed, for instance, the projected 3,500 Oregon National Guardsmen being deployed and expected to return from Iraq in 2010.

Secondly, while many employers adhere and abide by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, the House Joint Memorial 2 urges Congress to take it one step further and establish a nationwide public works program in collaboration with state employment and military authorities to provide jobs for veterans. Lastly, the measure urges Congress to provide a tax credit for employers as an incentive to the private sector to employ veterans and to businesses that retrain veterans.

2/6/2009 3:48:00 PM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*