

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Boone, Huffman, Matthews, Parrish, Esquivel, Witt
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Jill Petty, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/29, 4/5

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** States Legislative Assembly findings that United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration be encouraged to export its expertise in military sexual trauma, post traumatic stress disorder and other conditions associated with military service to outside health care providers. Encourages outside health care providers to seek continuing education related to military sexual trauma, post traumatic stress disorder and other conditions associated with military service. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- There are not enough mental health treatment providers at the Veterans' Health Administration
- Rural veterans need better access to mental health treatment

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

**BACKGROUND:** The 2009 Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 700, which created a Task Force on Veterans' Reintegration and required it to submit recommendations. The Task Force on Veterans' Reintegration found that as many as 40 percent of returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans had some level of post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression or other emotional or mental conditions.

The Legislative Task Force on Women Veterans' Health Care, established by House Bill 2718 (2009), determined that approximately 7,000 of Oregon's 25,000 women veterans use the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration (VA) facilities and personnel when seeking treatment for military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other conditions related to military service. Veterans not using the VA system may be treated by providers with limited experience or knowledge of conditions associated with military service. The Task Force concluded that private health care providers could benefit from VA personnel's expertise in military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other similar conditions.