

Enrolled
Senate Bill 276

Printed pursuant to Senate Interim Rule 213.28 by order of the President of the Senate in conformance with pre-session filing rules, indicating neither advocacy nor opposition on the part of the President (at the request of Senate Interim Committee on Veterans' Affairs)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to health care for veterans; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas there are more than 25,000 veterans in the State of Oregon who are women; and

Whereas more than 250,000 women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, many of whom served in combat; and

Whereas military sexual trauma, which can result in post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and other mental and emotional health concerns, is at epidemic levels in the Armed Forces of the United States, with one in every five female servicemembers and many male servicemembers claiming some level of military sexual trauma; and

Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration has expertise in military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder and the physical conditions associated with military sexual trauma; and

Whereas many female veterans do not identify themselves as veterans and do not use Veterans Health Administration medical services if they need care for military sexual trauma; and

Whereas medical providers, social workers, counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists and other providers outside of the Veterans Health Administration could benefit from continuing education on military sexual trauma; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds that:

(1) The United States Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration should be encouraged to export its expertise in military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder and other conditions associated with military service to health care providers outside of the administration; and

(2) Health care providers outside of the administration should be encouraged to seek out continuing education in military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder and other conditions associated with military service.

SECTION 2. This 2011 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2011 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by Senate February 24, 2011

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Robert Taylor, Secretary of Senate

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Passed by House May 9, 2011

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Bruce Hanna, Speaker of House

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Arnie Roblan, Speaker of House

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2011

Approved:

.....M,....., 2011

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John Kitzhaber, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2011

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Kate Brown, Secretary of State