

Statement of Support HB 4063

February 6, 2012

Co-Chair Esquivel, Co-Chair Witt
House Veterans' Affairs Committee
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs:

Please accept this letter of support for HB 4063. It is critical that we pass this bill through the 2012 Legislative Assembly. Thousands of military families need our help: your actions can - and will - make a profound difference in their lives.

This measure would simplify the process for returning veterans to get a job and utilize the skills and training earned during their military service. It is the result of years of study - and it warrants immediate passage. The time for delays - too often from organizations more concerned about parochial revenues and turf - is over.

When jobs are similar - veterans should be given the benefit of the doubt. This bill reframes licensure, training, and workforce opportunities for thousands of veterans'. We are at the critical moment for this generation of veterans'. HB 4063 is both instrumental and ornamental: it fixes policy that needs fixing, and it sends a clear signal to military families that Oregon is on their side.

With over 300 veterans returning to Oregon on a monthly basis, we do not have time to waste. The war in Iraq is over and the war in Afghanistan is entering its final phases. Now is the time we will either secure funding for our veterans' - or we will watch the window of opportunity (and public support) close before we do.

I urge your support for this bill. Thank you for your continued support for veterans' issues - I truly appreciate your willingness to stand up for those that have paid the price for our freedoms.

Sincerely,



Paul L. Evans
Citizen/Veteran
OIF (2003/2005), OEF (2006)

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