

Statement of Support HB 4065

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 4065. 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.

Though I would prefer Oregon support veterans' priorities through dedicated General Fund (GF) resourcing, our reality is what it is. We cannot afford to allow our politics to devolve into a "food fight" that forces the interests of our young against our aging - our present against our future. All of those priorities matter. However, we must secure our programs for veterans' and military families through whatever means remain available.

Lottery funds are an available means. They are not a "perfect" means, but over time it has proven itself a relatively stable funding tool. Truth be told, I believe we should eventually dedicate 2% of all Lottery Profits for veterans' programming - and the economic development activities involved in doing so - but right now HB 4065 is the best intermediate step we can take.

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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