

## **HB 2158 Veterans In State Tuition**

### **Testimony by Mark San Souci, 2 April 2013, Oregon House Veterans' Services & Emergency Preparedness Committee**

Chair Matthews and committee, on behalf of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, thank you for the opportunity to discuss and to express Department of Defense Concerns relative to for HB 2158 in an effort to 'Allows nonresident veterans discharged under other than dishonorable conditions to pay tuition and fees at Oregon resident rates.'

My name is Mark San Souci, Department of Defense Regional Liaison for Military Families for the Northwest, working for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Family & Community Policy.

While I've had the chance to testify on this three times already (September 12, 2012, December 12, 2012, and February 26, 2013), I am truly sorry I missed the session on March 26<sup>th</sup>. In that session, you proposed an amendment to require any new veteran moving to Oregon with an honorable discharge, and Post 9-11 GI Bill eligibility, intending enroll in an Oregon institution of higher learning, to have graduated from an Oregon high school to be eligible for in state tuition rates in the first school year.

We are concerned that such an amendment defeats the intention of the original measure. The intent to defray out of pocket costs between in state and out of state tuition rates, and aid veterans in transition from the military to civilian society, even if not previously a state resident, is virtually eliminated with this amendment.

Therefore, I am here today to express our concern regarding future support of HB 2158. The chair has explained to me that this action was

taken based on fiscal concerns. The Department appreciates the fiscal climate you are operating within, and will not dispute the rationale for the amendment.

In closing, we are grateful for the tremendous effort that Oregon has historically provided in supporting our service members and their families, including the military spouse license portability House Bill 2037 being taken up during this hearing.

I wish to thank this committee for taking up this measure, and know that you have been a champion for us for many years. I stand for any questions.

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