



# Oregon

Bureau of Labor and Industries

Brad Avakian  
Commissioner

August 8, 2012

Representative Greg Matthews  
900 Court St. NE, H-379  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Rep. Matthews-

I wanted to provide you with an update on our implementation of HB 4064, which codified into law the existing client referral process between the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) and the Oregon Department of Veteran's Affairs (ODVA). HB 4064 took effect on July 1, 2012, but BOLI began referring clients to ODVA in the summer of 2011.

As you know, whenever a civil rights complaint is filed by a service person, BOLI, with the complainant's authorization, refers them to ODVA for follow-up. ODVA then contacts them to determine if there are additional resources or services available to the serviceperson that they are not currently accessing. This includes complaints filed by service people even if their complaint is not related to their uniformed services (e.g. a racial discrimination, sexual harassment complaint, whistle blowing or any other complaint filed under 659A). We ask every complainant if they are a serviceperson and, if so, if they want to be referred to ODVA to learn about potential resources they might be eligible for. We have a simple check-box on our intake form to ask these two questions of every complainant.

We supported this legislation in 2012 and believe it has been very effective in connecting our service men and women with valuable services. To date, we have referred 43 complainants to ODVA. ODVA reports that upon contacting the referrals, most are already receiving some form of benefits; however, they are able to review with them all benefits they are entitled to receive, including health care, disability compensation, education, employment and housing benefits.

From our perspective the partnership is working quite well. A year after beginning the referral process, it has proven to be very simple and easy to implement, while the benefit to our individual returning servicemen and women has proved enormous.

We look forward to continuing this partnership and working closely with ODVA when it comes to serving our veterans and uniformed service people. We also appreciate your commitment to this issue and passing HB 4064. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information or answer questions. You should also feel free to have other interested parties contact my office if they have questions.

With kind regards,

Brad Avakian

Commissioner of Labor and Industries

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