



# Oregon's Heroes Deserve a Safe Place to Call Home

HB 2417

**Our armed forces accept the responsibility of guarding our freedom. When they return to our communities, we have a duty to provide them time and stability to heal and readjust to a different way of life. We must help them find a clear and solid pathway back to a productive life at home.**

We all, including military veterans, deserve a safe place to call home. HB 2417, proposed by the Housing Alliance, will raise resources to address a full range of housing needs, from ending homelessness to making housing more affordable to creating opportunity for homeownership. It will increase an existing document recording fee passed in 2009 (HB 2436) by \$5. This would increase the fee charged on the first page of real estate related recordings. We urge you to support HB 2417.

## Homeless Veterans in Oregon

Right now, too many veterans in Oregon struggle to find a safe, decent place to live. One out of every six men and women in our homeless shelters once wore a uniform in service to our country. One-night homeless counts indicate there are 2500 homeless veterans in Oregon, and other estimates say that there may be as many as 7000 veterans who are experiencing homelessness in Oregon. Even more veterans are having to choose between paying rent and putting food on the table or buying medicine. In every county in Oregon, veterans are experiencing homelessness, facing barriers to finding housing they can afford, and needing assistance to access homeownership. Veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq are experiencing higher instances of homelessness and housing instability than other Oregonians.

## How would we use these funds?

The \$5 increase in HB 2417 would be divided among three uses. We expect that the increase will generate \$6 million in the 2013-2015 biennium.

- **76% of the funds would be used to develop new affordable housing or acquire and rehabilitate existing affordable housing.**

\$4,430,000 would be raised in the 2013-2015 biennium. This would result in approximately 150 units across the state that could either be built or acquired and rehabilitated to serve veterans in our communities. This housing could simply be affordable rental housing, or it could be combined with services to help veterans with barriers to stability such as mental health care or medical needs.

- **14% of the funds would help veterans access homeownership.**

\$820,000 would be raised in the 2013-2015 biennium and would help provide veterans with assistance in accessing homeownership. This could result in 50 veterans and their families receiving down-payment assistance, homeownership counseling, and assistance accessing the OR VET loan.

- **10% of the funds would help prevent or end homelessness through emergency rent assistance.**

\$580,000 would be raised in the 2013-2015 biennium and would help prevent or end homelessness for veterans through emergency rent assistance, case management, help with application fees, deposits and other costs associated with renting an apartment after a period of homelessness. It would serve at least 200 households across Oregon.



Housing Alliance c/o Neighborhood Partnerships ·  
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