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John A. Kitzhaber, M.

MEASURE: SB 1  
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## Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

### SB 1

### Employers Provide Veterans Day off for Veterans

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Jim Willis and I am the Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. I am here today to support SB 1 which would require private employers to offer veterans of the Armed Forces paid or unpaid time off on Veterans Day – a day for whom Veterans Day was established.

Veteran's Day was established as a federal paid holiday to honor the service and sacrifice of military veterans. The concept of all veterans getting the holiday day off has long been popular with the men and women who have served in uniform. Veterans, and non-veterans alike, who work for institutions such as banks and public entities, have the day off with pay, yet veterans who work for private businesses typically do not have that option.

I believe this bill was thoughtfully proposed, as it does not intend to cause harm to private business and its operations. Employers who are unable to extend the option for their veteran employees to take November 11<sup>th</sup> off without loss of production, would not be required to do so.

The passage of this bill, and the implementation by private employers, would simply be a meaningful show of support and honor for Oregon's military veterans.

Thank you for your consideration and I will be happy to answer any questions.