

SB 762

Relating to veterans: Creating a Public Information Campaign to Prevent Suicide and Inform Veterans of their Federal Veteran's Benefits

Fiscal Impact (estimated, biennium):	\$500,000
Revenue (check off program, estimated):	\$669,390
Targeting Oregon Veterans:	338,527

What SB 762 Will Do

- ☆ Provide ODVA with a mandate to spread the message about suicide prevention and awareness of VA benefits to:
  - ☆ Nonprofits
  - ☆ Veterans Service Organizations
  - ☆ Chamber of Commerce
  - ☆ Social Media
  - ☆ Broadcast Media
  - ☆ Interested Individuals
- ☆ Train the above groups by partnerships, webinars or any other effective means to prepare an army of volunteers:
  - ☆ Recognize signs of suicide, know what to do and where to go to help the veteran get help
  - ☆ Know the basic programs available through the VA and where the veteran needs to go to find out more and enroll
  - ☆ Raise awareness of our veterans and increase appreciation for their service
  - ☆ Will not train anyone to be a counselor or a veterans service officer (VSO)
- ☆ Fund the program by voluntary checkoff contributions from:
  - ☆ Income tax returns
  - ☆ Vehicle registrations
- ☆ Why SB 762?
  - ☆ Only effective way to prevent suicide is through friends, family and the community.
  - ☆ *Word of mouth is the best medium of all (Bill Bernbach).*
  - ☆ *To do these things really well, always remember the three reasons people talk. They want to feel good, they want to help others, and they want to belong to a group (Andy Sernovitz).*
  - ☆ *A recurring theme is the need for the VHA to work in concert with other federal, state, and local government agencies; private for-profit and not-for-profit health care providers; veterans, their families, and their communities; and other individuals or organizations that might be able to help (Erin Bagalman, 2013').*

Please Support SB 762

**STATISTICS**

**Veterans Are At Risk for Suicide<sup>2,3</sup>**

Veteran Suicides	Statistics
Veteran Suicides - Nationally	22 per day
Percent of Veterans in the Oregon Suicide Rate	26%
Percent of Non-veteran Suicides age 50 & Older	37%
Percent of Veteran Suicides age 50 & Older	69%
Male Veteran Suicides	97%
Male Non-veteran Suicides	74%
Female Veteran Suicides	3%
Female Non-veteran Suicides	26%
White Male Veteran Suicides	93%
Children of Vietnam Veterans have three times the suicide rate of the general population <sup>6</sup> .	

**Suicide Prevention**

- **Know the Signs**
- **Respond Quickly**
- **Offer Help and Support**

**Suicide Quotes**

*It's hard to answer the question "what's wrong" when nothings right.*

*"I believe he never left Vietnam in his head because he always talked about dreams he kept having about Nam. One day he locked himself in the basement and started drinking. When the police came after being called by his wife, he just stated that he was tired and shot himself in the head."*

**Veterans Are Unaware of Their Benefits<sup>4</sup>**

Veterans' Awareness	Statistics
<i>General Benefits</i>	40.0%
<i>Health Benefits</i>	34.1%
<i>Enrolled for Health Benefits</i>	25.0%
<i>Enrolled and Aware of Health Benefits</i>	47.5%
<i>Not Enrolled and Aware of Health Benefits</i>	8.1%
<i>Home Loan Guaranty</i>	35.4%
<i>Education and Training Benefits</i>	37.7%
<i>Burial Benefits</i>	29.0%
<i>Veterans Who Lack Health Insurance</i>	
<i>Without Health Insurance - All</i>	13.0%
<i>Without Health Insurance - under 65</i>	21.2%
<i>Without Health Insurance - over 65</i>	3.0%
<i>Veterans Aware of VA Health Care Coverage by Period of Service</i>	
<i>World War II</i>	25.0%
<i>Korean War</i>	23.8%
<i>1947 to 1950</i>	23.0%
<i>Vietnam Era</i>	19.2%
<i>1990 to 2001</i>	19.0%
<i>1975 to 1990</i>	16.0%
<i>September 2001 &amp; Later</i>	21.8%
<i>Veterans Who Searched for Health Care Eligibility</i>	
<i>All Veterans</i>	19.8%
<i>Women Veterans</i>	22.2%
<i>Hispanic Veterans</i>	24.7%
<i>African-American Veterans</i>	33.6%
<i>September 2001 &amp; Later</i>	34.6%
<i>Young Veterans (18-30)</i>	38.4%
<i>Demobilized Guard and Reserves</i>	
<i>Understand VA Benefits</i>	61.4%
<i>VA Health Care Benefits are Available</i>	18.0%
<i>Home Loan Guarantee</i>	69.9%
<i>Rural Veterans</i>	
<i>Oregon Rural Veterans Comprise of Total</i>	28.4%

**VETERANS by COUNTY<sup>5</sup>**

	Oregon	Baker	Benton	Clackamas	Clatsop	Columbia	Coos	Crook	Curry	Deschutes	Douglas	Gilliam	Grant	Harney	Hood River
Total	2,934,440	12,820	69,717	281,435	28,891	37,320	59,893	16,621	18,983	120,378	85,131	1,533	5,913	5,719	16,253
Veterans	338,527	2,100	6,113	31,749	4,267	5,749	8,950	2,877	3,716	16,145	14,070	102	917	755	1,380
%	11.54%	16.42%	8.77%	11.16%	14.77%	15.40%	17.62%	17.31%	19.80%	13.41%	16.53%	12.52%	15.51%	13.20%	8.49%
	Jackson	Jefferson	Josephine	Klamath	Lake	Lane	Lincoln	Linn	Malheur	Marion	Morrow	Multnomah	Polk	Sherman	
Total	157,511	16,221	65,443	51,150	6,350	280,121	37,768	87,316	23,236	229,875	7,923	575,092	56,614	1,504	
Veterans	23,278	2,393	19,975	7,608	1,111	32,825	5,605	12,477	2,816	26,584	1,104	47,142	6,794	256	
%	14.78%	14.75%	16.77%	14.87%	17.50%	11.72%	14.84%	14.29%	12.12%	11.56%	13.93%	8.20%	12.00%	17.02%	
	Tillamook	Umatilla	Union	Wallowa	Wasco	Washington	Wheeler	Yamhill							
Total	20169		55185		19,822		5,712	19,306		389,361		1,032	73,480		
Veterans	3,028		6,736		2,481		945	2,590		34,454		163	5,177		
%	15.01%		12.21%		12.52%		16.54%	13.42%		8.85%		15.70%	11.13%		

1 Bagalman, E. (2013, January 10) *Suicide Prevention Efforts of the Veterans Health Administration*. Congressional Research Service

2 Kemp, J. & Bessarte, R. (2012) *Suicide Data Report 2012*. Department of Veterans Affairs

3 Oregon Health Authority (2012) *Suicides in Oregon: Trends and Risk Factors 2012 Report*. Oregon Health Authority

4 Westat (2012) *National Survey of Veterans, Active Duty Service Members, Demobilized National Guard and Reserve Members, Family Members, and Surviving Spouses*. Department of Veterans Affairs

5 Estimates, age 18 and older 2007-2011, American Community Survey - Five Year Estimates. U.S. Census

6 Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (2009, August 7). Retrieved from <http://www.vvaasg.org.au/media/2200/>