



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Veterans' Affairs

700 Summer Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Phone: (503) 373-2085

Fax: (503) 373-2362

House Committee on Veterans' Services and Emergency Management

HB 2046 – Conservatorship Estate Recovery

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tom Mann and I am the Administrator of the Veterans' Services Division at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. I am here today to discuss HB 2046, which is an agency bill that would allow ODVA to recover costs associated with its conservatorship program from the estates of deceased clients.

Under ORS 115.125, a number of State agencies are granted the authority to recover costs the agency incurred for their client from the clients estate. Currently, ODVA is not one of the agencies on that list. HB 2046 simply asks that we be added to the list.

Surprisingly, some of our clients actually have substantial estates, but their assets are not liquid until after their passing. In these cases, we do not charge the client for our conservatorship services – including legal services – which can be expensive. When the veteran passes, ODVA has no authority to recover any of its costs, even though an extensive estate exists. HB 2046 simply would allow the agency to do so just as every other State agency does under that statute.

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