



Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Senate Bill 54

February 17, 2015

The Senate Committee asked the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide information on the impact to the Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles on the existing tax credit for physicians. The committee's questions and our responses are provided below.

- *Is it difficult to get physicians in The Dalles to provide services to veterans at the Oregon Veterans Homes?*

Yes, it is difficult to get physicians to come to Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles. Most likely this is due to a shortage of physicians in the general geographic and has been a problem for many years. It is a challenge because a physician must leave his or her office, travel to the Veterans' Home, and receive a relative small reimbursement for a time-consuming visit.

- *How many physicians provide services to veterans at the Oregon Veterans Homes?*

Currently only three physicians who visit the Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles. The most the home has had was six. The Dalles has experienced a loss of physicians through retirement or leaving the community.

- *Do most physicians that provide medical services ask for a letter from the Home so that they can apply for the tax credit?*

Yes, all the current physicians who visit residents at the Oregon Veterans' Home in The Dalles ask for a letter so they can apply for the tax credit. Historically, all or almost all physicians who provide services at the Veterans Home have asked for a letter.

- *Has having the tax credit for physicians been a benefit to the Home? That is, has it made a difference in getting physicians to provide services at the Home? It has been in effect for eight years.*

Yes. It has had a very positive impact in bringing in and keeping physicians. The Veterans' Home has concerns that if the tax credit is no longer available, physicians may take this cost into consideration when determining whether to travel to the Veterans' Home. Because there are currently only three physicians who visit the home, the loss of even one physician would have a significant impact.

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