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Written Testimony for
Senate Veterans Committee
Re: Senate Bill 434

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My name is Robert H. Thornhill. I live in Beaverton, Oregon. This written testimony is submitted in opposition to Senate Bill 434.

First among the reasons for my opposition is that 100% disabled veterans receive substantial compensation from public funds for their disability. To grant relief from an Oregon tax would be, in effect, an unnecessary double compensation for the same disability. To grant such relief would be nice, a demonstration of generosity. But by no means can the relief be characterized as a necessity.

In addition to being compensated for a disability, presumably sustained in the line of duty, disabled veterans are provided medical care through the VA. Classified as a disabled veteran, far from 100%, I opine that the care rendered by the VA Portland Hospital and outlying clinics is excellent.

Furthermore, in Oregon the children and spouses of veterans 100% disabled in the line of duty receive tuition free education in Oregon universities and community colleges. A very substantial benefit indeed. A benefit granted by few other states.

As the late Senator Dirksen is quoted as saying: "A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you're talking real money." Of course, as related to Oregon's budget and revenue, SB-434 is not in the realm of billions. But I suggest it would not be an abuse of Senator Dirksen's words to say: A thousand here, or even a hundred here, a thousand or a hundred there, and pretty soon you're talking real money. Real money needed for real needs, for example, in the education of the children of Oregon, our future. Children that are the children and grandchildren of Oregon veterans.

Repeating: To fritter revenue away on such as here involved is to deny revenue to real needs, such as K-12 education. I suggest to do so would be irresponsible.

Request SB-434 be disapproved.