



OREGON COALITION OF POLICE & SHERIFFS

March 17, 2015

Senator Brian Boquist
Oregon State Capitol, S-305
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Senate Bill 87

Senator Boquist,

On behalf of the Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs (ORCOPS) and our members, I am writing to let you know of our strong concerns with Senate Bill 87. We are opposed to the bill as currently drafted.

Hiring preferences for veterans are a longstanding and important part of Oregon's civil service law. They help lend appropriate weight to the various skillsets that veterans have developed through military training and education. These preferences also provide a clear and consistent method of implementing that policy within our civil service system.

Supporters claim that Senate Bill 87 "clarifies" existing law. But neither the existing law nor the State's Labor Commissioner have been unclear on the implementation of this policy. The real effect of SB 87 would be a roll-back of veterans' hiring preferences, as the bill allows various employers the ability to implement policy at varying degrees of effectiveness.

ORCOPS opposes SB 87 as it is currently written, and expects to oppose any similar iteration that chips away at veterans' hiring preferences.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Respectfully,

Daryl Turner
President, Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs

Cc: Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness