



OREGON STATE FRATERNAL ORDER of POLICE

PMB 311, 11945 NE Glisan St
Portland, Oregon 97230
(360) 487-0172

Rod Edwards
President

May 14, 2015

House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Representative John Lively
Representative Sal Esquivel
Representative Deborah Boone
Representative Paul Evans
Representative John Huffman
Representative Julie Parrish
Representative Carla Piluso

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Esquivel, members of the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, thank you for hearing our testimony.

My name is Rod Edwards, President, Oregon State Fraternal Order of Police, and we are asking you to look at this Bill for what it really is, an attempt to give employers that ability to discriminate against veterans. I am a Disabled Veteran and I served in the United States Navy between 1984 and 1988. I have been a Police Officer since 1991 and with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office since 1994. As you may know, many Veterans are attracted to Law Enforcement after serving in the Armed Services. Many of my members are Veterans and are concerned about this Bill.

SB 87 is not just an attempt to clean up and clarify the statute, it is an attempt to bypass Veteran Preference so employers can promote or hire who they want. It's my experience that employers feel that Veteran's Preference is an unfair advantage and forces them to promote a Veteran over someone else they may want that is a non-veteran.

The language concerning "transferable skill" will allow employers to pick and choose who they will allow to receive Veteran Preference (Selective Discrimination). Those who support this Bill are not making an attempt at clarifying it, they are actively attempting to find a way to bypass the law for their own agendas. This language should be removed from the Bill all together.

We feel that SB 87 is a direct attack on Labor and Veterans. If passed, this Bill will promote discrimination and is a step backward when we should be promoting veteran's rights.

Please, show your support on behalf of the Police Officers and Veterans who have served and continue to serve this nation. Do not pass this Bill forward as it is written. Any amendments should reflect and make it very clear as to when the "Veteran's Preference" is applied and remove any wiggle room that an employer may use as an excuse to deny a Veteran his or her rights as they relate to Veteran's Preference."

I will gladly answer any questions that anyone may have concerning my experience with this issue.

Thanks you for your time and support,

Rod Edwards
Rod Edwards, President
Oregon State Lodge
Fraternal Order of Police
&
Disabled Veteran