



OREGON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

“Representing Those Who Volunteer”

Testimony of Genoa Ingram
Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association
In Support HB 2818
House Revenue Committee
May 14, 2015

The Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association (OVFA) represents emergency medical technicians, (EMTs) and firefighters across Oregon. Our membership is comprised of both volunteer and combination (volunteer responders working alongside paid firefighters) fire agencies. Some of these are special fire districts while others are city fire departments.

The OVFA is a 501(c)(3) organization that at one time provided hardship grants, death benefits, equipment grants, and text book grants for member and non-member volunteer firefighters and their family members, and contributions to much needed training efforts such as the Oregon Fire Instructors Association (OFIA) Safety Symposium. Grant and scholarship recipients were required to make application to the OVFA and a selection committee carefully considered each submission and chose the successful candidates, based primarily on the needs and resources of the department or district. In the case of a death, a check was cut immediately upon request by the district or department, no questions asked. Additionally, proceeds from an auction held at the annual conference go to benefit the Oregon Burn Center. These are just a few of the charitable contributions by the OVFA.

The OVFA is a dues-based organization that is constantly exploring creative ways to raise funds, whether it be raffling off a classic car that has been donated, seeking federal grants, or even (in previous years) telemarketing.

In the winter of 2008-09, the OVFA set out to make application for the charitable tax check-off. We discovered that under ORS 305.727, the Association would be required to gather 10,000 signatures and show a gross income of at least \$1 million for the year prior to application. While the signature gathering is not a problem for volunteer firefighters, the \$1 million certainly is. HB

2818 removes the \$1 million barrier for OVFA and allows the Association to move forward with the application process.


During the 2009 Legislative Session, an identical bill, HB 3414 received positive testimony by the Oregon Department of Revenue indicating that there was no negative impact to the Department. Similarly, there is no known negative impact to the Charitable Tax Check-off Commission. The bill subsequently passed the House unanimously.

In these very difficult economic times, including the recent PERS decision, a segment of our population is willing to step up and provide vital public safety services to their communities, often with significant out-of-pocket expense. The tax check-off will not impact Oregon's budget and will allow taxpayers to choose to support their volunteer firefighters by allowing the OVFA to continue to provide recognition and benefits to members and their families.

We urge your support of HB 2818 and thank you for your consideration.

**2009 Regular Session
HB 3414-A
House Floor Vote**

6-25 (H)

Third reading. Carried by Sprenger. Passed Ayes, 53; Excused, 1--Komp; Excused for Business of the House, 6--Galizio, Garrard, Jenson, Matthews, Nathanson, Riley. 

Vote:

Nolan	Aye	Bailey	Aye	Barker	Aye
Barnhart	Aye	Barton	Aye	Bertz	Aye
Berger	Aye	Beyer	Aye	Boone	Aye
Bruun	Aye	Buckley	Aye	Cameron	Aye
Cannon	Aye	Clem	Aye	Cowan	Aye
Dembrow	Aye	Edwards	Aye	Edwards	Aye
		C.		D.	
Esquivel	Aye	Freeman	Aye	Galizio	Excused for Business
Garrard	Excused for Business	Garrett	Aye	Gelser	Aye
		Gilliam	Aye	Gilman	Aye
Harker	Aye	Greenick	Aye	Hanna	Aye
Jenson	Excused for Business	Holvey	Aye	Huffman	Aye
		Kahl	Aye	Kenemer	Aye
		Komp	Excused	Kolek	Aye
		Krieger	Aye	Matthews	Excused for Business
Maurer	Aye	Nathanson	Excused for Business	Olson	Aye
				Read	Aye
Riley	Excused for Business	Roblan	Aye	Richardson	Aye
		Shields	Aye	Schaufler	Aye
Stiegler	Aye	Smith J.	Aye	Smith G.	Aye
Tomei	Aye	Thatcher	Aye	Sprenger	Aye
Whisnant	Aye	VanOrman	Aye	Thompson	Aye
Speaker	Aye	Wingard	Aye	Weidner	Aye
Hunt				Witt	Aye

6-25 (H)

Potential conflict(s) of interest declared by Boone, Sprenger.

2013 Regular Session
SB 128
Senate Floor Vote

5-14 (S)	<p>Third reading. Carried by Burdick. Passed. Ayes, 29; excused, 1—Johnson. </p> <p>Vote:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Baertschiger</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Bates</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Beyer</td><td>Aye</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boquist</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Close</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Devlin</td><td>Aye</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dingfelder</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Edwards</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Ferrilli</td><td>Aye</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Girod</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Hansell</td><td>Aye</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hass</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Johnson</td><td>Excused</td> <td>Knopp</td><td>Aye</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kruse</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Monnes</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Monroe</td><td>Aye</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td> <td>Anderson</td><td></td> <td>Olsen</td><td>Aye</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prozanski</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Roblan</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Rosenbaum</td><td>Aye</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shields</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Starr</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Steiner</td><td>Aye</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td> <td>Hayward</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thomsen</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Whitsett</td><td>Aye</td> <td>Winters</td><td>Aye</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burdick</td><td>Aye</td> <td>President</td><td>Aye</td> <td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td> <td>Courtney</td><td></td> <td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>	Baertschiger	Aye	Bates	Aye	Beyer	Aye	Boquist	Aye	Close	Aye	Devlin	Aye	Dingfelder	Aye	Edwards	Aye	Ferrilli	Aye	George	Aye	Girod	Aye	Hansell	Aye	Hass	Aye	Johnson	Excused	Knopp	Aye	Kruse	Aye	Monnes	Aye	Monroe	Aye			Anderson		Olsen	Aye	Prozanski	Aye	Roblan	Aye	Rosenbaum	Aye	Shields	Aye	Starr	Aye	Steiner	Aye					Hayward		Thomsen	Aye	Whitsett	Aye	Winters	Aye	Burdick	Aye	President	Aye					Courtney			
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5-15 (H)	First reading. Referred to Speaker's desk.																																																																														
5-22 (H)	Referred to Revenue.																																																																														
7-8 (H)	In committee upon adjournment.																																																																														