



February 25, 2016

**To:** House Majority Office

**From:** Laurie Wimmer, OEA Government Relations

**RE:** *HJR 202 [Veterans' Services Funding through Lottery Receipts]*

We want to clarify for the record that the Oregon Education Association, representing 43,000 members in K-12 and community colleges in Oregon, have not taken a position either in support of or in opposition to HJR 202, which would reserve 2 percent of net lottery proceeds for veterans' services.

While we are always concerned about new initiatives that diminish the resources that might otherwise be appropriated to public education, we also realize that the special challenges of our veterans are deserving of resources and attention. Many of our members are veterans, and many of the parents whose students are in our education programs also are veterans. Community college students served by our members are often veterans as well. Programs that benefit our returning veterans support many in the education community.

We have great hope that proposals currently circulating to improve the overall resources of Oregon, so that critical needs in education, health care, and other services may be better met, will pass voter muster, thereby minimizing the impact that lottery resource losses might otherwise cause.

It is our understanding that the position of the OEA on this bill (which is neutrality) has been misunderstood or misrepresented. It is our hope that this memo sets the record straight.