

Raymond Kelly 2/26/16 *rk*

Good Afternoon Chairman Haas and Members of the Committee:

I am an American Cold War Veteran. A 50% Service Connected Disabled Air Force veteran with five years, six months, and twenty-nine days foreign service. My name is Raymond Kelly. Reintegration to American society after serving overseas is tough. It is tough for the Veteran, it is tough for the family, and it cannot be done without help. I had help because I received an Honorable Discharge under Medical Conditions and a University education paid for through Chapter 31, Voc. Rehab.

Many of today's Veterans have no help; they cannot get into "the system." Government, be it state government with the National Guard or the federal government with all other Veterans classes is responsible for helping transition our men and women warriors back into being productive civilians.

I have read through HJR 202 very carefully and listened to testimony and questions this morning.

As to this morning's discussion, there was one issue I did not hear broached: Is Oregon's Legislature going to allow Oregonians full, free, and fair debate as to whether they are willing to dedicate a portion of Lottery Proceeds to Veteran Programs. That's what this resolution does. There is no fiscal impact in the referral. There is no revenue impact. It simply refers an issue to the people...to Oregonians. I urge this committee allow Oregonians the opportunity to decide whether or not they want to fund enhanced state Veteran programs which will benefit Oregon economically, while helping those who have served.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.