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79th LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **VETERANS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

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Testimony Summary

Topic: *Veteran's Support Services – Oregon Employment Department's Veterans Program*

Committee Briefer: *Shannon Langley, State Veterans Program Coordinator*

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Major Points of Testimony: *Overview of major points of presentation (1-2 paragraphs; 3-5 sentences per paragraph recommended)*

- I. **Overview:** 306,723 veterans currently reside in Oregon. The Oregon Employment Department's Veterans Programs provide resources to help veterans overcome barriers to employment. The department has 24 specialized Veterans Representatives working in field offices throughout the state as Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists and Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs). Together DVOP Specialists and LVERs provide outreach to veterans in need of assistance and foster relationships with the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA), employers, and non-profit organizations to enhance employment prospects for veterans. Additionally, the Employment Department and WorkSource Oregon Centers ensure that veterans receive priority in all employment services, workshops and training opportunities offered.
- II. **Program Performance:** Oregon's Veterans Program provides intensive services to 98% of eligible clients, and is ranked #1 in the region and #4 nationally. During the 2015 Program Year, the Veterans Program provided employment services to 19,165 veteran customers, helped 5,700 veterans find employment, and provided intensive employment services to 4,038 disabled veterans and veterans with barriers to employment.
- III. **Recent Success:** Loren Holm, a veteran who worked with one of the department's Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists, not only obtained employment, but was so impressed with the level of service provided by the Program that he convinced his employer to sponsor a veterans networking event in Salem. Additionally, Mr. Holm fostered relationships with DVOP specialists around the state, resulting in 26 employment referrals and eight hires of veteran clients.

Evidence/Supporting Material:

- March 23, 2017 Testimony before the House Committee Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Shannon Langley, State Veterans Program Coordinator, Oregon Employment Department