

**PAUL L. EVANS**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 20



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

April 4, 2017

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick  
Chairman, House Committee on Health Care  
Oregon House of Representatives  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Ref: House Bill 3341

Chair Greenlick, Members of the Health Care Committee:

Thank you for considering House Bill 3341. This measure is a critical mechanism for keeping a promise we made with Douglas County, the veterans served by the Roseburg Veterans Administration Medical Center, and the People of Oregon.

During the 2011 Legislative Session, an agreement was reached between interests seeking development of a medical training center in Douglas County and the State of Oregon. Regional stakeholders identified an opportunity for a partnership with the US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) through the Roseburg Medical Center to build a medical training facility expanding available medical care (and providers) throughout Southern Oregon and beyond.

While I was not serving in the body at that time, I am aware of the hard work done to optimize the partnerships originally formed in support of a bid to host a second veterans home (since built in Lebanon). Then Representative (now Douglas County Commissioner) Tim Freeman led the effort in seizing the opportunities. Bonding authority was set-aside to facilitate development of the project and was extended. I am told that USDVA is now prepared to take the next steps in development. And I believe our position for funding (in today's volatile federal landscape) would be significantly strengthened through a task force demonstrating formal status between the State of Oregon, USDVA, Douglas County, and our participating networks.

Unlike most "task force bills," this measure seeks minimal administrative support from the State of Oregon (and/or the agencies thereof). Douglas County has volunteered to assist with most of the staff-support functions required for facilitation of the project. The task force would provide a formal role for Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and Oregon Health Authority experts to participate in the development of the project. It is our hope that this measure will demonstrate our commitment in clear terms – sending a signal to the federal bureaucracy – that Oregon is the best place to invest scarce resources for expansion of medical provider training.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter. This measure will help us foster economic development, increased access to medical care, and yield greater capacity – as trained medical providers graduate from the program – and begin their practices. While I had hoped to attend the public hearing, circumstances in-district required my presence elsewhere. That said, please let me know if you have any questions, or require additional information on this matter.

Respectfully,

Paul L. Evans  
State Representative

