

Linn-Benton COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student Affairs

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2/7/2017

Senator Brian Boquist
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Suite 311
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 143, 79th Oregon Legislative Assembly, 2017 Regular Session

Dear Senator Boquist:

I am writing to pledge support for SB 143, which directs the Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish and expand veteran resource centers on campuses of community colleges and universities in Oregon.

Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC) understands the unique needs of student-veterans, having provided veterans support services on our campus for many years. Veterans in particular benefit from campus-based, centralized resources to help them complete their intended academic and career goals.

Having centralized resources--or a Campus VSO--allows veterans and dependents timely and expert guidance on benefits and other support services. Our Campus Veterans Association has a designated space and conducts workshops for veterans as well as workshops for campus about veterans' issues.

LBCC sees tremendous value of SB 143. We continue to serve a significant number of veterans and their dependents. It is my sincere belief that the statewide program expansion that this bill makes possible will be an effective, targeted use of resources to assist an important segment of our community be successful in college and in the community. We fully support and look forward to funding and rollout of these important programs.

Sincerely,



Bruce Clemetsen
Vice President for Student Services