

BRAD AVAKIAN
COMMISSIONER



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BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

February 23, 2018

Senator Boquist, Chair
Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
900 Court Street, NE, HR B
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 4098

Dear Chair Boquist and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for considering legislation to increase knowledge of apprenticeship opportunities within Oregon's community of veterans. The Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) supports HB 4098. The Bureau stands at the ready to work with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) to develop the outreach materials detailed in the bill.

BOLI's Apprenticeship and Training Division works to ensure that apprenticeship programs offer quality career opportunities through paid on-the-job training and education, with a focus on construction, industrial, and manufacturing trades. The Division works in partnership with Oregon businesses and local apprenticeship committees as well as other state agencies. Prior to the enactment of HB 3340 in 2017, we had already begun to work in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Education to provide written and electronic apprenticeship information to all high school students in the state. We also collaborate with the Higher Education Coordinating Committee to work with veterans applying for G.I. Bill benefits, which can be used to support veterans in registered apprenticeship programs. These two initiatives demonstrate coordination between agencies to better serve targeted populations. We will bring BOLI's experience and collaborative spirit to work with ODVA to meet the goals of this bill.

The Bureau of Labor and Industries urges your support for increased outreach and promotion of apprenticeship programs within the continuum of veterans' services.

Sincerely,

Brad Avakian
Commissioner
Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries