

**Chair:**

Rep. Paul Evans

**Vice-Chair:**

Rep. Mark Meek

Rep. Rick Lewis

**Members:**

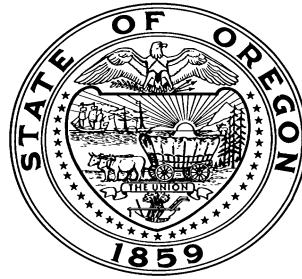
Rep Lynn Findley

Rep. Courtney Neron

Rep. Kim Wallan

Rep. Marty Wilde

Rep. Jack Zika



**LPRO Analyst:**

Patrick Brennan

**80<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

January 14, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome to the Oregon House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness. As we open this 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, we do so with an enormous task before us. In addition to tackling the “major” issues filling the news coverage – we must remember our duties regarding the less publicized – but equally challenging – work awaiting us in keeping faith with our military families, sustaining readiness of our National Guard, as well as crafting thoughtful strategies for improving our statewide resiliency for disasters, known – as well as unknown, that will assuredly come.

The following reflect the primary duties of our committee for the coming session: 1) manage the work assigned us; 2) establish and sustain a learning environment for ourselves, our stakeholders, as well as interested citizens; 3) contribute to the policy debates regarding veterans care and services, National Guard deployment tempo and readiness, and the status of our preparedness for crisis; 4) identification and facilitation of “next steps” for our state, counties, and communities; and 5) to conduct the business of the People in a manner befitting the trust given us for these purposes.

Given the scale, shape, scope, and size of the work ahead of us I ask for your attention to the topics listed in this letter as a framework for our efforts. We will continue to divide our work into two main categories: veterans policy and emergency preparedness. Within these two spheres we shall focus upon major structures and/or systems of functionality. I intend on building four workgroups from our membership: each with a Democratic as well as Republican co-chair. This is intentional. The teams formed shall reflect the background, experience, and interests of our committee as a whole. At present, these areas include:

Veterans: Oversight of existing programming, development of new programming, as well as facilitation of family support concepts

Emergency Preparedness: Delivery structures and systems, Lend-Lease investments, Open-Spaces strategies, previous workgroup priorities, as well as air/sea port resiliency

Military: Readiness for the upcoming mobilization/deployment of over 1,000 ONG personnel, oversight of capacities resiliency pre-deployment, during, and post-deployment for state priorities

Expansion of scope: Consideration of emergent preparedness issues including but not limited to fire suppression delivery as well as public safety personnel preparation

As you know, our committee, unlike any other within the House of Representatives, is of equal number Democrats and Republicans. This was intentional and at my request. I believe the bipartisan accomplishments of this past session may serve us as a helpful foundation for a collaborative, cooperative environment. My commitment to all of us is this: to do everything possible to ensure we never have a divisive, partisan vote – ever. To that point, I will work with our vice-chairs to implement a safeguard for legislative actions.

Our committee has a lot of work to do, and we can make tremendous progress so long as we maintain focus upon our duties, and seek to maintain an atmosphere of fixing problems instead of blame. My door is open to all members of our committee, and I remain open to creativity, innovation, and thoughtful solutions – regardless of origin. I look forward to working with each of you in common cause.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul L. Evans  
Oregon House of Representatives (HD 20)