

Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 3, 2019

House Committee on Education
80th Oregon Legislative Assembly
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Ref: HB 2556

Dear Colleagues:

Please accept this letter of support for HB 2556. It is brought to you because of conversation with military families throughout the State of Oregon: Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve status. For good or ill, we have been fighting our nation's overseas wars absent a draft, a major force structure increase, and largely upon the backs of the very few 2% of our population who choose to serve in uniform. This means we have fewer people living in Oregon with direct experience with military life. Again, this is not inherently bad – most of us veterans long for a time when the very few understand past service – but it is a reality for the thousands of military families living amongst us.

Unfortunately, many community leaders – even those working in our schools – do not know the importance of certain and specific military ceremonies and associated activities related to military life. This has resulted in an unnecessary tension between schools and military families. HB 2556 should resolve most of these issues. It will ensure that children of military members are not discriminated against by policies made without sensitivity to these specific concerns. Formal and informal functions are the glue that hold military families together; this bill will make certain that children of military families are not treated differently and/or prevented from taking part in the activities necessary for a successful deployment and reintegration for the family as a whole.

In conclusion, if you have questions or require additional information, please let me know. I appreciate your attention on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Evans".