



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

April 23, 2019

The Honorable Margaret Doherty
Chair, House Committee on Education
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street Northeast
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 689 – Armed Forces In-State Tuition Continuity

Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing to express support for the policy changes proposed in SB 689, a bill that addresses residency requirements for attendance at post-secondary public institutions for the purpose of tuition.

My name is Tammie Perreault and I am the Northwest Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of military families.


In many states, students with a military sponsor stationed in a state are given an “in-state” status for tuition purposes. Historically, public institutions only use terminology such as “enrolled” or “continuously enrolled” rather than “accepted”. This causes a problem since the student that has been accepted has not yet had the opportunity to enroll. Thus, if the sponsor retires, leaves the service or has a change of station out-of-state between the student receiving the letter of acceptance and the start of classes, the student can lose their in-state status.

We believe that a spouse or child of an active member of the armed forces assigned to duty in-state at the time of the dependent receiving a letter of acceptance should be deemed an in-state resident for purposes of determining tuition and fees as long as the spouse or child remains continuously enrolled in the institution of higher learning, regardless of a change of the service member’s status. Currently seven states to include Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas and Virginia have incorporated language that addresses this discrepancy.

We are grateful for the tremendous efforts that Oregon has historically made to support our military members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to support the policy

reflected in SB 689. Thank you for taking the time to consider this issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tammie L. Perreault". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammie L. Perreault
Northwest Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office

CC: Senator Alan Olsen