

Testimony in Support of HB2530A (with the –A7 Amendment)  
Submitted by: Pamela Leavitt, Northwest Credit Union Association  
May 7, 2019

Good afternoon Chair Olsen and members of the committee, my name is Pam Leavitt and I represent the Northwest Credit Union Association. Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives, organized to meet the needs of their members. They are democratically owned and controlled institutions, governed by its members. Oregon's 59 credit unions serve over 2 million members – your constituents. Credit unions provide the financial services consumer need and want – home loans, car loans, business loans, savings and checking accounts, financial counseling and financial education programs.

Credit unions in Oregon and around the country have a long and rich history supporting our veterans. In previous sessions, we have supported legislation to provide loan guarantees or other forms of credit guarantees for qualified veterans for purpose of refinancing existing mortgages or similar mortgages of homes used primarily as principal residence by veterans. We also have a long history of financial education with our members to support them in making sound financial decisions. Additional tools to support veterans and especially our homeless veterans will give our members more resources to assist those in need.

HB2530A requires certain notices to renters and homeowners regarding termination of tenancy to include information about assistance that may be available for eligible veterans. The current draft of the bill would be almost impossible to implement based on data processing constraints and the availability of information on assistance for veterans. The –A7 amendment would alleviate that problem. It outlines that the included notice can direct veterans to our state 211Info System rather than requiring county-specific information. We support the 211Info System as the one of the best resources to provide information from community action agencies.

Thank you.