

February 5, 2020

Honorable Senator Rob Wagner
Chair, Committee on Education

Dear Chairman Wagner and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of bill SB 1544. As a strong advocate for protecting Oregonian veterans, and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs, I feel it is my duty to share with you the importance of passing this bill, and the impact it will have on Oregon veterans and taxpayers.

We have the opportunity to become the first state in the country to stand up for veterans and their hard-earned GI Bill. Our state has continuously led the nation in protecting veterans, and SB 1544 will continue that tradition by ensuring that veterans are not targeted for enrollment due to the unique way their education benefits unlock additional federal education funds for institutions that would otherwise not qualify, according to the intent of the 90/10 rule.

The impact on veterans is real: Thousands of veterans have filed complaints with the US Department of Veterans Affairs, including many from Oregon.

Taxpayers also suffer. Due to this loophole, institutions can use taxpayer dollars coming from the VA and the DoD to inflate the 10% number that dictates the amount of Title IV funds they can legally receive. Taxpayers, in other words, are propping up otherwise failing schools.

I support SB 1544, and I ask you to vote in favor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan Olsen", is written over the word "Sincerely,".