

Testimony to the House Veterans and Emergency Management Committee

HB 2856 Related to Veterans

Position: **Favorable**

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Paul Evans, Chair

House Veterans and Emergency Management Committee

CC: Honorable Members of the House Veterans and Emergency Management Committee

My name is John Lee, and I am a military veteran with 20 years of service with the United States Army. I am a resident of Brownsville, Oregon, and submit this testimony as the Legislative Commission Chair representing The American Legion, Department of Oregon representing 155 post with over 12,830 members.

The American Legion, Department of Oregon strongly supports HB 2856.

Many of veterans applied for Civil Service employment upon leaving the service. Many, like myself, received no notice of acceptance of an application. They had a "don't call us, we will call you" attitude. This bill will aid in veterans, who have already given time to Federal Employment, in getting an interview and a notice as where they stand.

It should be noted that the DD form 215 is not a stand-alone document and should not be used as documentation of entitlements. It should be a DD Form 214 and a 215 if applicable.

The American Legion, Department of Oregon, believes the definitions of Honorable discharge are left open to interpretations. There are many levels of discharge. The American Legion, Department of Oregon, agrees with the input given by Oregon State Bar.

On behalf of The American Legion, Department of Oregon and our state's Veterans, the Legion urges the committee to support HP 2856 and the benefits it will bring to our Veterans.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide The American Legion, Department of Oregon, position on this important legislative issue.


John Lee

The American Legion, Department of Oregon
Legislative Commission Chair