

Testimony to the House Veterans and Emergency Management Committee

**HB 2141 Veterans Educational Bridge Grant Program**

Position: **Favorable**

January 26, 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 Committee Chair representing the United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO). The UVGO represents the unanimous position of 13 major Veterans organizations in Oregon. A list of Veterans' groups of the UVGO is listed at the end of this testimony.

I also serve as The American Legion Department of Oregon Legislative Commission Chair and I am on the American Legion national legislative council.

**The United Veterans' Group of Oregon (UVGO) strongly supports HB 2141.**

During 2020, the Veterans Educational Bridge Grant was instrumental in providing a lifeline of relief to Veterans of both genders and provided the margin of difference for many Veterans to be able to complete their education, especially in trade school. With continuing COVID-19 complications, this grant becomes even more important. Studies show that many Oregon Veterans who take on jobs to get through a gap in training will never return to their academic pursuit.

If the Veterans' Educational Bridge Grant's sunset date is not extended, the UVGO believes that many veterans will not complete their education, a detriment to America's patriots and a potential loss of human resources to our great State.

**On behalf of the United Veterans' Groups of Oregon and our state's Veterans, the UVGO urges the committee to support HP 2141 and the benefits it will bring to our Veterans.**

Thank you for this opportunity to provide the UVGO position on this important legislative issue.

**Members of the United Veterans' Groups of Oregon (UVGO):** Air Force Association; American Legion; Association of the United States Army; Disabled American Veterans; Korean War

Veterans' Association; Military Officers Association of America; Military Order of the Purple Heart; National Association of Atomic and Nuclear Veterans, Inc.; Non-Commissioned Officers Association; Paralyzed Veterans of America; Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America; and 40+8.