



The Libertarian Party of Oregon is Neutral on HB4091, as it fails to address illegal foreign deployments. We urge passage of the full multistate “Defend The Guard” Act instead.

The Libertarian Party of Oregon is heartened to see this legislature is finally taking up the issue of Oregon Guard Deployment – an issue we have been raising for years to deaf ears.

In February 2025, we sent a delegation to Salem to lobby for a far superior version of this legislation – HB3954 which was also sponsored by Senator Manning among others. HB3954 implemented the **Model State Defend The Guard Act**, a version of which was supported by Sen. Wyden as early as 2008. This new version, HB4091 which is reactive to recent events in Portland, is substantially inferior.

Thus, although supportive, we are remaining neutral on this bill and urge amendments to:

- 1) Incorporate the foreign deployment standard set out in HB3954 (2025) and,
- 2) Remove from this legislation the ability of the Adjutant General to circumvent the Governor – a specific goal of the Pentagon and Trump Administration to circumvent the constitution.

On August 14, 2024, 230 members of the Oregon Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment were activated and sent into combat operations for “Operation Inherit Resolve”, the US Military’s illegal dirty war in Syria. Oregon National Guard’s Syria deployment involved the support of Al Qaeda Terrorist Abu Mohammed al-Jolani. Yes: **The Oregon Guard is supporting Al Qaeda**. Not one of Oregon’s political leaders said a word. As the head of ATS, al-Jolani is currently conducting a genocide against the peaceful Alawite population, a Genocide Oregon Guardsmen are supporting. The deployment was made under the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) where the US Congress gave the President the authority to mobilize the militia of the states and the US military against “terrorism” the definition of which he/she determines.

Oregon Senator Merkley has argued for years that the 2001 AUMF is deficient. This legislation is an opportunity for Oregonians to enforce his point. Many Oregonians are deeply concerned about the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Under the 2001 AUMF, all the president has to do is call Gazans “terrorists” and the President can mobilize the Oregon National Guard to aid in the genocide, evacuate the population of Gaza to Somaliland, or force them into a Trump-built Smart City gulag designed by Jared Kushner. This bill does not prevent such a scenario but expressly allows it.

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution reserves to the People of the United States, acting through its representatives in the US Congress, to declare War – an event that constitutionally authorizes the Oregon Guard to be federalized. This is allegedly implemented by the 1973 War Powers Act which created a watered-down version of a declaration of War called an Authorization for Use of Military Force. This puts our leaders on the public record on their decision to put Oregon Guardsmen in harms way. Over 45% of casualties in the phony “Global War on Terror” have been guardsmen.



Where do Oregon's leaders really stand on the deployment of the Oregon guard to combat operations and operations support in Syria, Egypt, Kosovo, Djibouti, the vague "Middle East," and Somalia, all of which have happened in recent years under the umbrella of the deficient and outdated AUMF?

HB3954 would have forced those politicians to go on record by taking the position that the 1973 War Powers Act did not meet the Constitutional standards of a congressional and only tolerate the deployment of the Oregon Guard into foreign combat operations with an Article 1 Declaration. That's why HB3954 was dangerous to the Military Industrial Complex establishment which relies on aggression and imperialism to stay in power.

We are neutral on this bill because we agree with its provisions limiting domestic deployment, but the bill's inspiration by the recent Portland deployment was grounded in self-serving moral outrage and an unhealthy tendency among fauxgressives to play the victim. We respect Oregon Guardsmen who are sworn to protect Oregonians, and the fact the legislature is finally paying attention to the issue has become a political merit badge in the moment – not because our political leaders were actually taking steps to actually protect Oregonians, but because it gave them P/R.

As for the self-serving moral outrage about immigration – if Democrats truly cared about the many refugees and asylum seekers in Oregon, they would address the illegal and destabilizing regime change operations conducted by the Pentagon and intelligence community around the globe that drives immigration in the first place. In 2020, Oregon's Democratic congressional leaders joined Republicans in a standing ovation for National Institute of Democracy Shill Juan Guado at the State of the Union. It is that regime change operation that drove hundreds of thousands to seek asylum and TPS status in the United States in the past five years.

Finally, we are unsure if the Portland deployment was really about anti-ICE protests. These seemed to us to be inorganic and fueled by agent provocateurs. If the US had actionable intelligence about a potential domestic act of sabotage – say by agents smuggled into the US under the cover of student visas with plans to derail a chemical train in an urban area in retribution for the US operations in Ukraine, Iran, or Syria – would the National Security State tell us? Likely not- it would create pandemonium and calls for war. And if such a domestic act of military sabotage sent a toxic plume over downtown Portland, Oregonians would be thankful that Guardsmen were predeployed with gas masks.

The Libertarian party is one of nonaggression, and we speak for the silent majority of Guardsmen who believe in protecting their homeland and not being deployed to fight unconstitutional battles for foreign interests. The hateful rhetoric coming from protestors and Democratic leaders in the past year about the honorable men and women who serve in the Oregon Guard was disgusting.

The Libertarian Party of Oregon, founded in 1971 as an anti-war reaction to the War in Vietnam, is the state affiliate of the third largest political party in the United States. We currently represent over 20,000 registered Oregonians but speak for a silent majority of nonaffiliated voters. Over the years we have consistently advocated for libertarian causes including but not limited to: gun rights, non-interventionism, individual rights, deregulation, property rights etc.