

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

January 27, 2005 Hearing Room C

8:30 A.M. Tapes 10 – 11

(Corrected 07/27/05)

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Rep. Donna Nelson, Chair**

Rep. Phil Barnhart, Vice-Chair

Rep. Debi Farr, Vice-Chair

Rep. Brian Boquist

Rep. Scott Bruun

Rep. Dave Hunt

Rep. Betty Komp

STAFF PRESENT: **Jim Stembridge, Committee Administrator**

Erin Seiler, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:

Introduction of Committee Measures - Work Session

Veterans' Issues - Informational Meeting

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/# Speaker Comments

TAPE 10, A

001 Chair Nelson Opens the meeting at 8:32 a.m. Opens a work session for the introduction of committee measures.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEASURES - WORK SESSION

005 Jim Stembridge Committee Administrator. Submits and summarizes LC Draft 2037 **(EXHIBIT A)**.

015 Rep. Barnhart MOTION: Moves LC 2037 BE INTRODUCED as a committee bill.

VOTE: 7-0-0

Chair Nelson Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.

025 Chair Nelson Closes the work session for the introduction of committee measures. Opens an informational meeting on Veterans' Issues.

VETERANS' ISSUES – INFORMATIONAL MEETING

049 Jim Booker State Veterans' Programs Coordinator, Oregon Employment Department (OED). Submits and summarizes OED Veterans' Unemployment Rate report **(EXHIBIT B)**.

065 Booker Submits and summarizes OED Veterans' Program report **(EXHIBIT C)**.

095 Booker Identifies and discusses the unmet financial and employment needs of veterans.

115 Booker Discusses the type of programs that OED has to assist veterans who are seeking employment or financial assistance.

201 Chair Nelson Introduces Terry Rich, Disability Veterans' Outreach Specialist, OED and Stan Stanley, Veterans' Employment Representative, OED.

217 Booker Submits and summarizes information packet of OED Veterans' Program marketing materials which includes Hire Vets First

pamphlet, Hire the Best brochure, and *Daily Courier* newspaper article (**EXHIBIT D**).

- 295 Booker Answers questions related to programs and resources for homeless veterans.
- 350 Stan Stanley Veterans' Employment Representative, OED. Explains the community voicemail system that is available for homeless veterans in Salem.
- 380 Jacqueline Zimmer Director, Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4A). Gives an overview of the services and programs of O4A.

TAPE 11, A

- 025 Zimmer Discusses the importance of County Veterans Services Officers (CVSO).
- 060 Jeff Hill Veteran Service Officer, Columbia and Washington Counties. Submits and summarizes written testimony explaining the Oregon County Veterans Service Officers Association (OCVSOA) (**EXHIBIT E**).
- 120 Hill Submits and summarizes County Veterans Services Pilot Project report (**EXHIBIT F**).
- 180 Hill Responds to questions related to the funding of the OCVSOA and CVSO county offices, and performance benchmarks are for CVSO.
- 275 Hill Submits and summarizes the written testimony of Timothy Jederberg about CVSO (**EXHIBIT G**).
- 286 Zimmer Comments on why veterans are unaware of County Veterans' Service Offices and CVSO.

TAPE 10, B

- 015 Betty Pomeroy Chair, Washington County Aging Services Seniors Advisory Council. Speaks to the need for more CVSO and the financial benefits of

moving veterans from Medicaid benefits to Veterans' Administration benefits.

- 080 Gary Roulier Chief Warrant Officer, Oregon Reserves. Identifies what major issues are affecting Oregon National Guards and Reserves soldiers when they return home.
- 150 Roulier Discusses the concerns regarding the length of deployment and time in between tours.
- 230 Roulier Speaks to the employability issues of returning soldiers.
- 290 Roulier Addresses the psychological effects of combat and the importance of providing soldiers with access to mental health services.
- 344 Rep. Boquist Discusses the importance of the Oregon National Guard and Reserves mobilization training and why funding for mobilization training needs to be increased.

TAPE 11, B

- 002 Boquist Clarifies that there is not funding for returning Oregon National Guard and Reserve soldiers to participate in mobilization training until six months after returning from combat.
- 051 Chair Nelson Asks for clarification from the Oregon Military Department regarding mobilization training.
- 055 Colonel Mike Caldwell Deputy Director, Oregon Military Department. Addresses the lack of funding for drill training and reintegration programs.
- 120 Caldwell States that by the end of 2005, 5000-6000 Oregon National Guard soldiers will be returning from tours and "will be turned loose on community and family" without reintegration training.
- 175 Rob Johnstone Citizen, State of Oregon. Comments on the vital services provided by CVSO and the need to that there is stable funding for county offices.
- 270 Chair Nelson Closes the informational meeting on Veterans' Issues. Adjourns the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. **Introductions, LC Draft 2037, staff, 2 pp**
- B. **Veterans' Issues, OED Veterans' Unemployment Rate Report, Jim Booker, 1 pp**
- C. **Veterans' Issues, OED Veterans' Program Report, Jim Booker, 2 pp**
- D. **Veterans' Issues, informational packet, Jim Booker, 9 pp**
- E. **Veterans' Issues, written testimony, Jim Booker, 8 pp**
- F. **Veterans' Issues, County Veterans' Services Pilot Project Report, Jeff Hill, 11 pp**
- G. **Veterans' Issues, written testimony of Timothy Jederberg, Jeff Hill, 2 pp**