

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON**  
**VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**April 28, 2005 Hearing Room C**

**8:30 A.M. Tapes 83 - 85**

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

**Rep. Phil Barnhart, Vice-Chair**

**Rep. Brian Boquist**

**Rep. Scott Bruun**

**Rep. Dave Hunt**

**Rep. Betty Komp**

**MEMBER EXCUSED:       Rep. Debi Farr, Vice-Chair**

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

**Erin Seiler, Committee Assistant**

**MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:**

**Health Care Benefits for National Guard & Reserve Members & Their Families – Informational Meeting**

**HB 2737 – Work Session**

**HB 2847 – Work Session**

**HB 2862 – Work Session**

**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 83, A**

001              Chair Nelson                      Opens the meeting at 8:38 a.m. Open the informational meeting on Health Care Benefits for National Guard & Reserve Members & Their Families.

**HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES – INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

055              Rear Admiral James Johnson                      Regional Director, TRICARE Regional Office West. Submits and summarizes written testimony on health care benefits for National Guard and Reserve Members **(EXHIBIT A)**.

151              Johnson                              Submits TRICARE Regional Office West PowerPoint presentation **(EXHIBIT B)**.

155              Johnson                              Explains TRICARE Health Care programs **(EXHIBIT B, Pages 3 -5)**.

197              Rep. Nelson                              Asks how the TRICARE health care program “meshes” with Oregon Veterans’ Administration Medical facilities.

205              Johnson                              Explains TRICARE Northwest Hub support services in Oregon **(EXHIBIT B, Page 6)**.

270              Rep. Nelson                              Addresses the need to increase advertising and marketing of veterans’ health care services and benefits.

275              Johnson                              Speaks to efforts of TRICARE to provide information to veterans’ about available health care benefits.

292              Rep. Nelson                              Asks if TRICARE has a public relations budget to market program in Oregon.

- 317 Johnson Identifies where the Prime Service Areas are in Oregon and the areas in Oregon where provider availability is inadequate (**EXHIBIT B, Pages 7 -9**).
- 361 Rep. Boquist Asks why it is a challenge to get providers in the Pendleton Area.
- 370 Johnson Addresses why the Pendleton and Bend area have challenges with getting TRICARE network providers.

#### **TAPE 84, A**

- 037 Rep. Barnhart Points out that Medicare reimbursement rates are “incredibly inadequate” and suggests that TRICARE attempt to differentiate their reimbursement rates from Medicare rates in order to improve provider retention.
- 059 Johnson Comments on the difficulty of recruiting and retaining network providers because of low reimbursement rates.
- 083 Chair Nelson Explains why veterans have limited access to medical treatment in Oregon.
- 115 Johnson Speaks to Congressional oversight of military medical facility and Veterans’ Administration medical facilities.
- 170 Johnson Explains CHAMPUS Maximum Allowable Charge rates (**EXHIBIT B, Page 10**).
- 205 Johnson Speaks to TRICARE mental health parity (**EXHIBIT B, Page 11**).
- 239 Johnson Explains TRICARE Prime Benefit Program (**EXHIBIT B, Page 12**).
- 325 Johnson Addresses Congressional efforts to increase Reserve Component Health Care Benefits (**EXHIBIT B, Pages 13- 14**).

#### **TAPE 83, B**

- 001 Johnson Explains the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) (**EXHIBIT B, Page 15**).

015	Johnson	Explains the TRICARE Reserve Select Benefit ( <b>EXHIBIT B, Pages 16 – 18</b> ).
046	Rep. Boquist	Asks what the purpose is of TRICARE Reserve Select Benefit and if there are alternative health care benefit options.
060	Johnson	Explains why Congress developed the TRICARE Reserve Select Benefit Program.
108	Rep. Hunt	Inquires as to who has the authority to amend eligibility requirements for TRICARE Prime Benefits.
120	Johnson	States that eligibility is Congressionally mandated.
124	Rep. Boquist	Asks how to ensure that Reservists are all registered and eligible for health care benefits before leaving active duty.
130	Johnson	Explains TAMP coverage and TRICARE Outreach Programs ( <b>EXHIBIT B, Pages 19 - 20</b> ).
161	Johnson	Addresses how health care benefits for Reservists used to be administered.
209	Chair Nelson	Closes the informational meeting on Health Care Benefits for National Guard & Reserve Members & Their Families.
220	Chair Nelson	Recesses meeting at 9:50 a.m.
221	Chair Nelson	Reconvenes the meeting at 10:00 a.m.
223	Chair Nelson	Opens the work session on HB 2737.

**HB 2737 – WORK SESSION**

225	Jim Stembridge	Committee Administrator. Explains HB 2737, which creates Oregon Military Family Relief Program in Oregon Military Department. Submits -1 amendments ( <b>EXHIBIT C</b> ).
245	Rep. Barnhart	Explains the changes made by –1 amendments.

289	Colonel Mike Caldwell	Deputy Director, Oregon Military Department. Confirms that the language in –1 amendments is accurate.
311	Chair Nelson	Questions whether the amendment adequately resolves issues of residence and legal dependent status.
320	Rep. Boquist	Verifies that a legal dependent can be whomever the soldier designates.
352	Chair Nelson	Asks what language should be used regarding legal dependent status.
375	Caldwell	Suggests language relating to the recognition of a soldiers’ legal dependents and how to establish eligibility for soldiers who are members of the Oregon National Guard but do not reside in Oregon.
408	Rep. Barnhart	Clarifies the difference in residency status of Oregon National Guard and Oregon Reservists in the Armed Forces who do not reside in Oregon.

**TAPE 84, B**

012	Rep. Komp	Points out difficulties in getting another amendment before committees close.
016	Rep. Boquist	Expresses how important it is to establish “at least one” of the proposed military relief funds.
022	Mac MacDonald	Representatives, Veterans’ Organizations. Suggests additional amendments to HB 2737.
065	Rep. Barnhart	Suggests adopting -1 amendments and moving HB 2737 to House Revenue far further amendments.
083	Chair Nelson	Opens the work session on HB 2847.

**HB 2847 – WORK SESSION**

085	Jim Stembridge	Explains HB 2847, which requires that Oregon Veterans’ Home Account be permanently listed on individual tax return form for
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charitable contribution purpose. Submits -1 amendments (**EXHIBIT D**).

- 102 Rep. Barnhart Asks if the amendment replaces the \$50,000 dollar requirement.
- 111 Stembridge Summarizes -1 amendments.
- 127 Rep. Barnhart Points out what language is removed from HB 2847 by -1 amendments.
- 136 Rep. Barnhart Restates the importance of sending the bills to House Revenue.
- 147 Chair Nelson States why HB 2737 and HB 2847 will remain in committee until each is amended correctly.
- 204 Chair Nelson Closes the work sessions on HB 2737 and HB 2847.
- 208 Chair Nelson Opens the work session on HB 2862.

### **HB 2862 – WORK SESSION**

- 214 Jim Stembridge Committee Administrator. Explains HB 2862, which directs public post-secondary education institutions to award credit for education and training obtained while serving in Armed Forces of United States. Submits and summarizes -1 amendments (**EXHIBIT E**). Submits and summarizes -2 amendments (**EXHIBIT F**).
- 247 **Rep. Bruun** **MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 2862-2 amendments dated 04/25/05.**
- 253 Rep. Barnhart Explains why there needs to be parallel language for universities and community colleges.
- 284 Rep. Barnhart Explains why -1 amendments are necessary and -2 amendments are unnecessary.
- 304 Julie Suchanek Government Relations Specialist, Oregon Community College Association (OCCA). Explains why OCCA requested and supports the adoption of -2 amendments.

- 330 Rep. Barnhart Asks if it is the position of OCCA that community colleges should not be required to give credit for education and training, even if all program requirements are met.
- 346 Suchanek Explains how OCCA interprets -1 amendments as usurping the policy control of local community college boards.
- 365 Rep. Barnhart MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 2862-1 amendments dated 04/25/05.**
- 370 Chair Nelson Clarifies how HB 2862 would be changed by -2 amendments.
- 380 Rep. Barnhart Restates why -2 amendments are “not necessary” since universities and community colleges already have complete control over transfer credit.
- 385 Suchanek Explains how -2 amendments recognize the different governing structures of community colleges and universities.
- 399 Suchanek Restates why OCCA supports -2 amendments.

**TAPE 85, A**

- 005 Rep. Komp Asks if Oregon University Systems (OUS) or Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) have commented on HB 2862.
- 010 Stembridge States that institutions governed by OUS already award credit using guidelines provided by American Counsel of Education.
- 026 Rep. Komp States hesitance to take action on HB 2862 because of existing problems within OUS of transferring credits between community colleges and universities.
- 040 Rep. Barnhart Disagrees with the analysis that HB 2862 affects the transfer of any credits within OUS.
- 050 Rep. Boquist Agrees with Rep. Komps’ interpretation of HB 2862 because Chancellor’s Office would be directed to establish system wide guidelines for transferring credits.

059	Chair Nelson	Points out that OUS did agree to draft the necessary rules.
064	Rep. Bruun	Withdraws motion to adopt -2 amendments.
068	Chair Nelson	Closes the work session on HB 2862.
078	Chair Nelson	Adjourns the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

### **EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

- A. Health Care Benefits for National Guard & Reserve Members & Their Families, written testimony, Rear Admiral James Johnson, 5 pp**
- B. Health Care Benefits for National Guard & Reserve Members & Their Families, TRICARE Regional Office West PowerPoint Presentation, Rear Admiral James Johnson, 21 pp**
- C. HB 2737, -1 amendments, staff, 1 p**
- D. HB 2847, -1 amendments, staff, 2 pp**
- E. HB 2862, -1 amendments, staff, 1 p**
- F. HB 2862, -2 amendments, staff, 1 p**