

Submitter: Cindy Timmons
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB668

Chair Manning, Vice Chair Thatcher, and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 668 expanding tuition benefits to disabled veterans, their spouse and children. Fortunately, I have had many years of experience tutoring students at Blue Mountain Community College. I continue to sit on the BMCC Foundation Board where, twice a year, I score scholarship applications. Many veterans, serving our country, leave military service with disabilities both seen and unseen. The unseen are often the most crucial. Giving these men and women an educational and/or trades opportunity not only elevates individuals and families, but also helps circumvent homelessness, mental/behavioral health issues and substance abuse/addictions. Some of our men and women gave all - for those that signed on the dotted line, served their country, were honorably discharged and came home to live life - this is the least we can do.

I would like to add that "the trades" can not be overlooked. We are fortunate to employ veterans in our family business. Not only is an apprenticeship program available, but turned out journeymen enjoy a lucrative career in all parts of the state - some as permanent residents and others as travelers. All are enjoying changing the skyline of cities and towns in urban and rural Oregon.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Cindy Timmons