

I-1000: A Stab in the Veteran's Back

The current controversial Initiative I-1000, which names itself *the Washington State Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Act* if enacted as a law, just passed through the legislature. It sounds beautiful but is actually a stab in the veteran's back. I-1000 states:

PART II

PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT

Sec. 3. RCW 49.60.400 and 2013 c 242 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, ~~((or))~~ national origin, age, sexual orientation, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or honorably discharged veteran or military status in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

Check out what was said regarding prohibiting preferential treatment to veterans on the 4/18/2019 public hearing for I-1000:

<https://www.tvw.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&ventID=2019041200&startStreamAt=2585&stopStreamAt=2614&autoStartStream=true>

0:08:35 (Representative Matt Shea): For those of us who are veterans or as a concerning part of the definition section here, it appears to prohibit preferential treatment for somebody's honorably discharged status, **but we routinely seem to do that all the time with civil service points and schooling.** Am I reading that correctly?

0:08:58 (Edie Adams, committee staff): Yes, Representative Shea, the initiative will now prohibit the use of preferential treatment with respect to veterans and all of other listed characteristics. There are a number of state laws that provide preferences for veterans and none of those statutes are being amended by the initiative, so I guess the court would have to try and harmonize the those statutes with the provisions of the initiative to the extent that there is a conflict. Under the initiative preferential treatment is defined as using that characteristic so veteran status as the sole factor to choose a lesser qualified candidate over a more qualified candidate.

What's on the mind of the supporters of I-1000? Prohibit preferential treatment to the veterans who are willing to sacrifice their lives for our country and people? Isn't it a stab in their back? Is it a fair way to treat our veterans? If you want to support our veterans, please sign up to support our Referendum Measure 88 to bring I-1000 back to the ballot to let people vote on it. To sign up, go to <https://waasians4equality.org/2019/04/29/join-referendum-88-signature-drive-and-put-i-1000-on-the-ballot/>



P.S.

1. For more information about I-1000, visit
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=1000&Initiative=true>
2. The current WA laws and measures that give veterans preferential treatment:
 - 1) <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=41.04.010>
 - 2) <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=73.16.010>
 - 3) <http://careers.wa.gov/veteranspreferences.html>