



# NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 18, 2015

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## **Oregon House Passes Rep. Fagan's Bill to Give Military Families Financial Security**

Salem, OR—The families of sheriff's deputies, fire fighters, and other public employees who are actively deployed in the military will gain access to increased financial security under a bill that passed the House 59-0 this morning.

For many men and women actively serving in the military, being deployed means taking a financial hit, as their military pay is lower than the pay they receive at their civilian job. This leaves their families to shoulder the financial burden, on top of the burden of having their loved one in harm's way.

Many private employers provide what's known as "differential pay," which makes up the difference between an employee's regular pay and their military pay. It's a critical benefit that can make all the difference for military families.

Under current Oregon law, sheriffs and fire departments, along with other public employers, are blocked from providing their employees with differential pay when they are deployed in the military.

"For my family it was a nightmare," said Clackamas County Sheriff's Deputy Mark Griffith in a committee hearing last week. "If you can imagine for a moment the wife or husband of an airman, soldier, marine, or sailor at home dealing with their family all alone. They're busy taking care of all the family's needs as well as the constant worry that someone is going to show up to the door, in dressed uniform, and inform them that their loved one has been killed in action. The stress is compounded as they try and learn to make ends meet. It requires a lot of work since they still have the same bills to pay, but half the income."

[House Bill 2763](#) would allow public employers to provide differential pay for military families.

“Being able to offer this benefit can provide a huge impact to a young family and their children,” said Clackamas County Sheriff Craig Roberts. “And furthermore, I just believe it’s simply the right thing to do.”

“These men and women have put their lives on the line for our country,” says Rep. Shemia Fagan (D-Clackamas), who sponsored the bill. “We have a responsibility to make sure their families aren’t hit with financial ruin at the worst possible time. This bill will provide military families with the security they need.”

House Bill 2763 will now move to the Senate for consideration.

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