

## Newell Bill

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**From:** Lockwood Jonathan  
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## SENATE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Jonathan Lockwood  
Communications Director  
971-645-2140

### **Senate Republicans vote to expand higher education opportunity for National Guard members**

SALEM, Ore.—Today, Senate Republicans voted to pass House Bill 3423 A to expand education opportunity for Oregon National Guard members who have completed initial active duty training. HB 3423, which was passed unanimously, allows Oregon National Guard members to be eligible for the Oregon Promise, the state's free community college program, when they enroll in community college courses within six months of completing initial active duty training.

“This is a simple fix that will help National Guard members gain access to higher education,” said Senate Republican Deputy Leader Tim Knopp, of Bend. “We don’t want those who serve to miss out on opportunity.”

“They deserve fairness under the law and this bill helps achieve that,” said state Sen. Alan Olsen, R-Canby.

“HB 3423 A will help our Guard members with the burden of cost for higher education,” said state Sen. Brian Boquist, R-Dallas. “This isn’t a partisan issue and passing this bill shows the Legislature can enact change when we work together.”

House Bill 3423 A incentivizes serving in the Oregon National Guard and rewards Oregon National Guard members for their service. The bill ameliorates conflict between the Oregon Promise 6-month requirement and active duty training time requirements.

The average Oregon community college tuition and fees total \$5,0272 per year and non-tuition costs including housing, books, supplies, food and transportation average around \$14,000 per year. Oregon Promise grant awards range from \$1,000 to \$3,397 per year.

The bill now moves to the governor’s desk to be signed into law.

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**For follow-up commentary please contact Senate Republican Communications Director Jonathan Lockwood at 971-645-2140, or [Jonathan.Lockwood@OregonLegislature.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Lockwood@OregonLegislature.gov).**