

Secretary: Vote explanation please. Senator Boquist

“HB 2094 would allow Housing & Community Service Department to change the definition of ‘veteran’ by rule. Oregon history tells us in times of constrained resources that veteran support is almost always cut first. Many agencies consider ‘veterans’ a risk not a treasured asset thus the farther from a war the less the veteran gets except a press release. For this reason, statutes under the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs define ‘veteran’ to ensure equal protection and proper protections. Veteran support will decrease not increase under this bill. Having a policy allowing state agencies who historically do not like veterans or place them last make the rules will be a disaster for veterans. Veterans have to fight agencies to get benefits so allowing those agencies to easily change definitions by rule needs to be called out. As a veteran I have personal experience with these government agencies.”