

JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 15



OREGON STATE SENATE

March 6, 2026

Obadiah Rutledge
Secretary of the Senate

RE: Vote Explanation for HB 4132 B

Dear Secretary Rutledge,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my vote explanation for HB 4132 B. Oregon is home to thousands of men and women who have answered the call to serve and who came home carrying the lasting weight of that service. Nearly 34% of Oregon's veterans live with a service-connected disability, and far too many are struggling in ways we cannot afford to ignore.

In Oregon, a veteran dies by suicide roughly every three days. Every three days. That is not a statistic we can accept, and it is not a problem we can afford to leave unaddressed. My own father served 23 years in the Navy and served during the Vietnam War. My dad served on a ship, traveling down the Mekong Delta. At times, they transported prisoners of war. His time of service left a mark on him, including years of deep mental and physical health challenges. Those challenges did not just affect him personally, our family felt the ripple effect of his self-medicating the pain and domestic violence outbursts. He was a troubled man.

HB 4132B takes meaningful steps to change the sad outcomes of military service. It establishes a Veterans Suicide Prevention Grant Program, funded with dedicated lottery dollars, to expand targeted prevention efforts and reach veterans before they reach a crisis point. This is exactly the kind of proactive investment our veterans have earned.

The bill also strengthens the Oregon Veteran Educational Bridge Grant, doubling the individual grant cap from \$5,000 to \$10,000. For a veteran who is close to finishing their degree under the GI Bill but hits an unexpected financial barrier, that difference can mean the gap between finishing and walking away. We want them to finish.

Let's also be clear, this is not just the right thing to do morally. It is smart economic policy. Every dollar invested in Oregon's veterans generates approximately \$251 in direct economic return and roughly \$500 in indirect return through the GI Bill, VA home loans, and business lending. When a veteran receives a service-connected disability rating, that indirect return to communities across Oregon grows to more than \$1,000.

900 Court St. NE., Salem, OR 97301- 503-986-1715
sen.janeensollman@oregonlegislature.gov

**JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 15**



OREGON STATE SENATE

I come to this space a proud daughter (both mother and father have served), sister, niece and wife of military veterans. Thank you to the members of the legislature that have served in the military, several are my Senate colleagues. Investing in veterans, invests in Oregon. For these reasons, I voted in support of HB 4132 B.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janeen Sollman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Janeen Sollman
Senate District 15