

SHELLY BOSHART DAVIS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 15



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 4, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on SB 150 A

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I voted no on SB 150 A because, while the bill is well-intentioned, it is ultimately too restrictive and risks making it even harder for veterans to access the benefits they have earned.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a long and well-documented history of failing to efficiently and effectively deliver benefits to our veterans. Many veterans struggle for months or even years to navigate the VA's complex bureaucracy and secure the support they deserve. Because of these ongoing failures, third-party businesses and consultants have stepped in to help veterans cut through the red tape and get the benefits they are owed.

SB 150 A, as written, prohibits individuals and companies from receiving compensation for assisting veterans with their benefits claims, except as narrowly allowed by federal or state law. While the bill aims to protect veterans from predatory practices, its overly broad restrictions will have the unintended consequence of limiting the options available to veterans seeking help. Many legitimate businesses and advocates provide valuable services to veterans—services the VA and accredited organizations often cannot provide in a timely or effective manner. By imposing blanket restrictions, this bill risks making it even more difficult for veterans to get the help they need.

I recognize and appreciate the intent behind SB 150 A: to protect veterans from bad actors. However, the bill is poorly written and does not strike the right balance between preventing abuse and preserving veterans' freedom to choose how they access support. Instead of targeting only those who exploit veterans, the bill sweeps too broadly and restricts legitimate avenues for assistance.

It is especially telling that veterans serving in the House of Representatives spoke out against this bill. Their firsthand experience with the VA system and the challenges veterans face in accessing benefits gave weight to their arguments. Their concerns about the bill's impact on veterans' choices and access to services were persuasive and reinforced my decision to oppose SB 150 A.

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Our veterans deserve better than a system that limits their options and makes it harder to get the benefits they have earned. I cannot support legislation that, while well-meaning, would ultimately put more barriers in front of those who have served our country. For these reasons, I voted no on SB 150 A.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Shelly Boshart Davis'.

Shelly Boshart Davis
Oregon House of Representatives
District 15