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Oregon House Passes Bill to Assist Women Veterans

Rep. Carla C. Piluso's Bill Passes the House Unanimously

SALEM— This morning, House Bill 3479A, which creates a statewide coordinator at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs focusing on women veterans, passed off the House floor unanimously.

Representative Carla C. Piluso (D-Gresham) introduced the bill after talking with women veterans in Oregon and hearing their stories. In Oregon, women are the fastest-growing military population, with 28,483 self-identified women veterans. Even with this growing population, a great number of women veterans are not accessing the VA benefits they are entitled to receive.

"I am grateful for all men and women who make the decision to serve in the military, and they all deserve top notch services. That means we need services that recognize the unique needs of women veterans," said Rep. Piluso. "The Women Veterans Coordinator will help identify and breakdown the barriers that are keeping Oregon's women veterans from accessing important medical services and other benefits."

The position will be responsible for conducting outreach to women veterans and their families; developing and distributing informational materials regarding available benefits and resources; and sharing best practices with County Veteran Service Officers to help better meet the unique needs of the fastest growing population of veterans in Oregon.

Rep. Carla C. Piluso worked closely with women veterans and the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs on the bill which has strong bi-partisan and bi-cameral support. House Bill 3479A is now headed to the Senate floor for a vote.

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