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REP. PILUSO INTRODUCES BILL TO HELP WOMEN VETERANS

HB 3479 would establish a statewide women veterans coordinator to assist women veterans in accessing their benefits

SALEM— This morning, Representative Carla C. Piluso (D-Gresham) introduced a bill that would establish a statewide coordinator at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to assist women veterans and their families in accessing their veterans benefits.

Nationwide more than 400,000 women have served in our military since 9/11. In Oregon, women are the fastest-growing military population, with 28,483 women veterans identified. Even with this growing population, a number of women veterans are not accessing the VA benefits they are entitled to receive.

"The Women Veterans Coordinator would be tasked to identify and breakdown the barriers that are keeping Oregon's women veterans from accessing important medical services, educational benefits, employment training, housing opportunities and other support services," said Representative Piluso.

This position would help veterans and their families apply for and access benefits they are entitled to, create and distribute information targeted for women veterans and their families, and help women veterans through the appeals process if a denial of benefits occurs. The creation of this position will aid Oregon to leverage federal dollars from VA benefits programs, saving money for the state.

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