



Office of Senator Mark Meek

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Senate Supports Student Veterans, Honors Gold Star Families

SALEM, Ore. - Today, the Oregon Senate unanimously passed two significant bills, [House Bill 2271](#) and [House Bill 3001](#), further reinforcing the state's commitment to supporting veterans and their families. These bills will provide crucial assistance to student veterans and recognize Gold Star Families for their sacrifice.

The bills passed the House on a bipartisan vote and now heads to the Governor's desk for consideration.

HB 2271, the Veterans Educational Bridge Grant bill, addresses the challenges faced by student veterans who encounter obstacles in completing their academic or training programs. The program offers grants of up to \$5,000 to veterans that meet the eligibility requirements. The bill will expand eligibility for the program, allowing more veterans to qualify and receive support. This bill also makes this program permanent, ensuring long-term assistance for student veterans pursuing their education.

"We owe it to our veterans to ensure that they have the resources they need to successfully complete their educational programs and embark on fulfilling careers," **said Senator Mark Meek (D-Clackamas)**, U.S. Air Force Veteran and chair of the Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue.

The Senate also passed HB 3001 to allow roadside memorial highway signs to be placed without charge to Gold Star families and requires the Department of Transportation to waive the surcharge associated with the vehicle registration plate for Gold Star families.

"This bill sends a resounding message of gratitude and recognition to the families who have

suffered unimaginable loss of a loved one in military service,” **said Senator Mark Meek (D-Clackamas)**. “Waiving the fees and surcharges associated with these symbols of remembrance is just common sense. It acknowledges the contributions and sacrifices made by these families in the defense of our nation.”

HB 2271 and HB 3001 were among the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, these bills now move to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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