

SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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Legislation will grant U.S. veterans in-state tuition at Oregon schools

HB 2571 ensures all tuition costs can be paid for by new federal GI Bill

SALEM – The Senate supported American men and women in uniform today by passing a bill to grant all honorably discharged veterans in-state tuition at Oregon's public universities and colleges. HB 2571 will ensure that all U.S. veterans attending Oregon schools can pay the entire cost of tuition with funds from the new federal Post-9/11 GI Bill.

"The updated GI Bill that affects post 9/11 soldiers only covers in-state tuition for student veterans," said Senator Martha Schrader (D-Canby), a member of the Governor's Task Force on Veterans' Service, which recommended the legislation. "With this bill, any veteran who attends a school in Oregon can maximize their GI benefits. We are, in effect, saying 'Oregon is a state that welcomes all veterans who have sacrificed for their country.""

The Post 9/11 GI Bill pays for honorably discharged veterans' higher education costs up to 15 years after service if they have served at least 36 months on active duty. The costs covered include necessities like books and living expenses, but not the full cost of out-of-state tuition. By guaranteeing in-state tuition for all veterans, HB 2571 ensures that the cost of attending Oregon's public schools can be fully covered by these federal funds.

"Increasing access to our universities and community colleges for returning veterans has always been a priority for Senate Democrats," said Senate Majority Leader Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin). "By making higher education more affordable for veterans across the country, we are honoring their service while diversifying our college campuses."

HB 2571 will now go to the Governor's office for his signature.

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