



from the office of

SENATOR KIM THATCHER

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Senate Committee on Education Considers Bipartisan Veterans Education Bill

SALEM, OR. - Today, the [Senate Education Committee](#) held a public hearing on [SB 1557](#). The bill aims to help Oregon's National Guard men and women who are attending college.

"When we call up Oregon's National Guard to help our state, we should also be mindful of how it effects their lives at home. I drafted a minor change in the law that will help them succeed in furthering their education," said Senator Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer) who is a chief sponsor of the bill.

The concept was recommended by an Oregon National Guard Captain. Several of his soldiers are currently enrolled in public universities, and had recently been called to training and other functions of the state, such as [helping with the wildfires](#). Sometimes these duties can coincide with their mid-terms and finals. Subsequently, they would have to repay for their classes.

Currently, under ORS.341.499, ORS 352.293 and ORS 353.200 universities are required to allow college students serving in the military to retake the class without additional cost to them if they were

called up for more than 30 days. Senate Bill 1557 adds the language of 30 days or less.

"Changing the law to add 30 days or less, recognizes the unique circumstances of Oregon's National Guard and promotes equity of their educational success. By changing this law, we are being proactive in helping our service members before they are discharged," said Senator Manning (D-Eugene), also a chief sponsor of the bill.

The Oregon Enlisted Association supports the bill and a number of Oregon National Guard personnel have [submitted written testimony](#) in support of the bill.

"I believe it will promote more service members to be secure in enrolling for college, and that it is an active approach to helping them before they make a transition to civilian life," said Senator Alan Olsen (R-Canby), who is a chief sponsor of the bill.

If you would like to help support this bill, you can submit written testimony by sending it to the [email in this link](#).

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