



## Kevin Cameron

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# Cameron's Corner

June 13, 2005

*A newsletter from State Representative Kevin Cameron, Serving  
District 19*

## The Process – Frustrating or Challenging?

Since being appointed to represent you in late February, I have spent my time here at the Capitol building relationships and learning about the process.

One example of the work that I have been doing is “fingerprinting.” My first week, I was listening to testimony in Committee about the Oregon State Board of Medical Examiners needing legislative authority to do national FBI checks on physicians applying for Oregon licenses. I asked, “Aren’t we doing it now?” The short version of that answer is “No.” Currently, when a doctor moves to our state, we do not do a FBI background check before issuing a license.

Recognizing this is not good “public safety policy” and the fact that other Boards and Agencies also needed authority to do proper background checks, I have put time and energy into making this become reality. Protect the People of Oregon!

Last week, I testified in front of the House Judiciary Committee, along with ten others, in support of HB 2157. One person raised opposition, and thus the bill was not moved.

The next day I spearheaded a meeting with all stakeholders to try and get this important piece of legislation to the House floor and over to the Senate.

It is with mixed emotions that I continue the challenge to get “commonsense” legislation through the process that will help protect all of us as citizens of Oregon. As I sense frustration coming on, I try to move into the “challenge” mode, stay focused and remember that Democracy can be messy, but not near as messy as the battles that

allow us to be here!

Thanks for your support,



## Aid to Oregon Veterans Pass the House

*rep.kevincameron@state.or.us*

The Oregon House unanimously passed legislation creating a Wounded Soldier Relief Program and a property tax exemption for Oregon National Guard and military reserve members called to active duty for more than 178 days.

*Committee Assignments:*  
General Government  
Health and Human Services

The Wounded Soldier Relief Program (HB 3333) will provide grants for housing, medical expenses, clothing, utilities, and other necessities of daily life to members of the Oregon National Guard or military reservist who have been wounded or injured while on federal active duty. This program will be funded by a charitable check-off option for taxpayers on the Oregon personal income tax form.



*Legislative Assistant:* Denyc Boles  
*Office Manager:* Win Lombardi  
*Intern:* Peter Coyl

HB 3334B grants a property tax exemption up to \$60,000 of assessed value on the homes of Oregon National Guard members, military reserve members or active militia members who have been called to active duty for more than 178 days during the tax year for which the exemption is claimed.

“We recognize the incredible sacrifices being made by those volunteering to protect us,” commented Rep. Cameron, “I was proud to support this legislation that will bring some relief to members of the Oregon National Guard and their families.”

## YES ON:

[HB 2933](#) eliminates the outstanding tax liability for qualified members of the Armed Forces who lose their life while on active duty.

[HB 2945](#) Expands tax exemptions for Veterans.

[HB 3037](#) Expands the crime of aggravated murder to include the murder of a juror or witness in a juvenile proceeding if the murder is a result of their service.

[HB 3096](#) connects Oregon to federal tax changes relating to the 2003 Military Family Tax Relief Act.

[HB 3333](#) Wounded Soldier Relief Program (see related article).

[HB 3334](#) gives tax exemption to members of the Oregon National Guard who are on active duty.

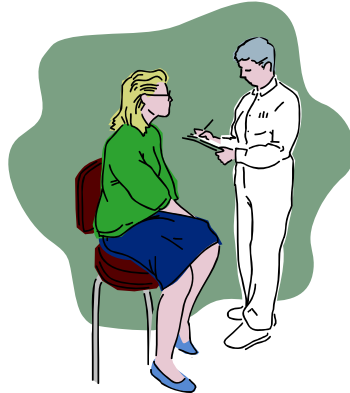
[HB 3469](#) Makes known sexual

## Rep. Cameron speaks to efforts to improve Oregonian's Health Care

Rep. Cameron carried two bills last week which will expand access to health care and maintain its quality. SB 443, which passed unanimously, helps increase access to needed health care in our state. This bill gives flexibility to the Oregon Board of Medical Examiners to maintain its mission of public safety while providing opportunity to certify retired doctors who have been out of practice for more than 24 months. This bill will especially help those in our rural areas where retired doctors are moving and have a desire to volunteer and serve in local communities.

SB 605, also passing unanimously, was another step to increase access to health care, especially in areas relying on clinics that require

physician supervision. SB 605 directs the Department of Human Services to establish a program informing retired physicians and health care providers about the laws intended to increase volunteer participation at primary care clinics. It extends immunity and reduces the need for expensive malpractice insurance when serving in volunteer clinics.



predators guilty of a Class C felony if they are where children congregate.

[HB 3457](#) restores anti-meth and anti-DUII programs and further funds drug courts and prevention programs.

[HJR 34](#) Amends the Oregon Constitution to dedicate 1 percent (estimated \$10 million) of net lottery proceeds for veterans' services. If passed by the Senate, HJR will be voted on by the public in the 2006 primary election.

[SB 389](#) authorizes Fish and Wildlife Commission to adopt rules prohibiting internet hunting. Also allows counties to hold ballot measures to determine cougar and bear prevention measures.

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## Drug Asset Forfeiture Bill Passes the House

In anticipation of the Oregon Supreme court ruling affirming the Court of Appeals decision to rule Measure 3 unconstitutional, State Rep. Andy Olson (R-Albany) sponsored HB 3457 which passed 39 to 18.

This bill directs portions of civil asset forfeiture dollars to go to programs to combat drug activity, promote drug awareness and drug education programs.

According to Rep. Olson this bill will provide an effective tool for law enforcement to curb the growing criminal narcotics activity. "It modifies the existing statutes concerning civil asset forfeiture to withstand any Constitutional challenge and considers the will of the voters. I'm proud to sponsor a bill that protects our citizens and sends a clear message to the criminal element in this stat that Oregonians are not going to tolerate this menace in our communities."



Measure 3 was passed in 2000 by 67 percent of the voters after an initiative with the intent to require a criminal conviction before asset forfeiture could occur.

## Agency Budgets Passed by House

Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), the Public Utility Commission (PUC), the State Board of Nursing, the Commission for the Blind, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Commission on Children and Families, the Oregon Youth Authority, the Employment Department, Criminal Justice Commission, The OR Military Dept, Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists, the Board of Clinical Social Workers, the Board of Psychologist Examiners, and the Health Licensing Office.