



**REPRESENTATIVE GENE WHISNANT  
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HOUSE DISTRICT 53**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Rep. Whisnant's bi-partisan effort to help Veterans**

*Bill moves to Governor that helps Veterans in these tough economic times*

Representative Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver) introduced a bill this session, HB 2510, which would remove the 15 year limit on military veterans using preference points when applying for public sector jobs. Rep. Whisnant gathered members who are also veterans - Senator Richard Devlin (D- Tualatin), Senator Brian Boquist (R-Dallas), and Representative Jeff Barker (D-Aloha) - as chief co-sponsors in a spirit of bi-partisanship to help pass this bill.

HB 2510 passed out of the House on April 29<sup>th</sup> with 58 ayes and 2 excused. The bill moved through the Senate Health Care and Veteran's Affairs Committee and Deputy Majority Leader Laurie Monnes Anderson (D-Gresham) agreed to carry it on the Senate floor. The bill passed in the Senate with 26 ayes and 4 excused.

Rep Whisnant introduced this bill on the behalf of a constituent who applied for a position at a school district and found that his preference points had expired. Representative Whisnant did not understand why we would take away our Veteran's access after 15 years, why have a time limit? Senator Monnes Anderson spoke on the Senate floor, "By promoting access to public sector jobs, we can extend greater opportunities to veterans for their sacrifice." Senator Devlin also spoke in favor of the bill on the floor. He said, "Our veterans have made many sacrifices defending their country. This time spent outside of the work place should not put them at a disadvantage when they return home."

HB 2510 helps level the playing field for our veterans. They need to be encouraged and know that we appreciate all their time and effort they have given to our nation. We need to help our Veterans find work when they have left the service. This bill will ensure that we can help more people find employment.

HB 2510 now moves on to be signed by the Governor.

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