

IN THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR THE COUNTY OF YAMHILL

SITTING FOR THE TRANSACTION OF COUNTY BUSINESS

In the Matter of a Resolution)
in support of Funding for) RESOLUTION 17-01-12-2
Oregon Veterans)

WHEREAS, Oregon is the proud home of more than 320,000 veterans who have served in five major wars across three generations; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor's 2017-19 recommended budget proposes cutting general fund support of veterans services by \$10 million; and,

WHEREAS, the 2016 Oregon Legislature unanimously referred Measure 96 to the voters of Oregon; the voters of Oregon voted to pass Measure 96 with 84% of the vote; and,

WHEREAS, the "Legislative Argument in Support" statement in the *Official 2016 General Election Voters Pamphlet* included language stating: "In addition to current state funding for veterans, Measure 96 will provide critical support for our veterans..."; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in general fund support for Oregon's veterans would not honor the will of the voters; and,

WHEREAS, ballot Measure 96 was a mandate for Oregon to increase funding for veterans to better access their earned benefits such as education, housing, and healthcare; and,

WHEREAS, many of the day to day needs of Oregon's veterans for housing, healthcare, and mental health continue to be unmet and many of our veterans continue to live with inadequate housing; and,

WHEREAS, only one in three of our veterans access their earned benefits and two-thirds of our veterans need assistance in effectively accessing their medical, disability, education, and other federally funded benefits; and,

WHEREAS, there is a huge economic advantage to the state for a more robust system for veterans to access benefits they have earned and subsequently more dollars circulating in local economies; and,

WHEREAS, the current annual federal amount of revenue coming to Oregon is \$1.3 billion for non-healthcare benefits and \$1.1 billion in health care benefits.

WHEREAS, the federal funds Oregon is able to access and leverage by maintaining is current level of general funds to support veterans significantly lessens the burden on state and county services; and,

WHEREAS, the leaders of Oregon have an obligation to honor the men and women who have served our nation in uniform and to advocate on behalf of veterans,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes the Governor's 2017-19 recommended budget plan to reduce the State of Oregon's general fund support for veterans by \$10 million.

Done this 12th day of January, 2017

YAMHILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner, Chair

STAN PRIMOZICH

Commissioner, Vice-Chair

MARY STARRETT

Commissioner

RICHARD L. "RICK" OLSON

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on

1-12-17 by Board Order

17-18