

House Bill 3116

March 26, 2015

This material is offered as written testimony in support of HB 3116.

The Oregon Preferred Worker Program is a unique set of benefits designed to facilitate a timely and appropriate return to work for Oregon injured workers with some level of permanent disability. It is a program where the injured worker is provided with a Preferred Worker Card that identifies him/her as an eligible worker and offers unique hiring incentives to Oregon employers.

Among many other components, this program offers a prospective employer:

- *With wage subsidy at 50% for a period of six months employment.*
- *Workers' Compensation insurance premium exemption on the worker's employment for a three year period.*
- *Complete, life-time, claim cost indemnification for any new workers' compensation injury the worker might have during the three year premium exemption period.*
- *Job worksite or workstation modification is available when appropriate to accommodate an injured worker with permanent limitations.*

The above benefits to prospective employers are proven to be strong incentives to hire an injured worker. Benefits paid directly to a qualified injured worker can include:

- *Tuition, books and fee reimbursements*
- *Lodging, meals and travel expenses*
- *Tools and equipment*
- *Basic clothing required for the job*
- *Union initiation fees*
- *Miscellaneous other expenses*

Our Oregon National Guard soldiers who exit their military service periods with disabilities face the same employment obstacles we address in our Oregon Preferred Worker Program. We believe it is our obligation to assist these Oregon Guard soldiers in the same fashion we do for our Oregon injured workers.

Thank you for your assistance in passing with enthusiastic support HB 3116.

Respectfully,

Mark J. Davison