

Vote YES on HB 2764-B Access to Justice for Injured Workers

Injured workers face daunting challenges. In addition to the trauma of an on-the-job injury, they face the challenge of feeding their children on the limited payments they receive when they are off work due to injury. They have to wade through the medical process, quite probably through physical therapy and perhaps vocational rehab.

They are scrutinized by insurance industry lawyers and claims adjusters. They have to get medical bills paid so they can continue treatment. And they have to figure out how to handle the extremely complicated workers' compensation system.

The Injured Workers' Ombudsman does a good job but many injured workers need legal help that right now they cannot find.

1.7 Million workers are covered by our state's workers' comp system, yet there are fewer than 100 lawyers who specialize in this area of the law on the side of workers.

HB 2764 would expand the list of services for which attorneys could get paid to help injured workers and would increase the fees that they could charge. The goal of the bill is to attract more lawyers into this field to meet the needs of injured workers.

Oregon has an efficient workers' comp system – the 8th lowest premiums in America (74% of the national average), and a system in which legal fees for injured workers comprise less than 3% of the overall cost. By marginally but meaningfully increasing fees, we expect that we can attract new lawyers who want to help workers yet who are facing staggering student debt.

HB 2764-B is a compromise bill unanimously agreed to by the labor and management representatives to MLAC.

Speak up for injured workers!! Vote YES on HB 2764-B



From the Desk of
Sen. Michael Dembrow
[Signature]