

**Honor the Management/Labor Process:
VOTE YES on HB 2764-B**

The Oregon Nurses Association and the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council are two of the unions represented on the Management Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) for Oregon's Workers' Compensation system.

MLAC consists of representatives of two additional unions, Louisiana Pacific, ATI (parent company of Wah Chang Metals), CityCounty Insurance, the May Trucking Company, and the Sheet Metal Contractors Association.

MLAC members voted unanimously to support HB 2764-B as a way to ensure that injured workers have access to adequate legal representation, and to keep Oregon's workers' compensation system stable.

Management and labor both have a vested interest in making sure that the system continues to function. Oregon has among the lowest premiums on the country, and they have decreased by 12% over the last two years. HB 2764-B provides a cost-effective way to improve the \$880M workers' comp system.

It is important that the voices of labor and management be considered as reform proposals come forward around workers' comp. If our diverse group can reach agreement on a bill, then there should be bi-partisan support in the legislature.

MLAC had more than a dozen meetings about this issue over the course of the last year. EconWest presented a study of the declining availability of attorneys in the system and the impact of that decline on injured workers. Injured workers, their attorneys, management and labor came forth to discuss this issue. A recent law school student testified before MLAC that with more than \$200,000 in student debt, he would not pursue a career protecting injured workers because of the fee caps and the prohibitions on being paid for services injured workers need.

HB 2764-B represents a compromise. It is not all that injured workers or their advocates sought. But that said, the bill earned the unanimous support of MLAC & deserves your support as well.

Oregon Fire Fighters State Council



Oregon Nurses Association

ONA Oregon Nurses Association
Voice of Oregon Nurses Since 1904

From the desk of
Senator Monnes Anderson

Lucie M. Anderson