



To: Chair Taylor & Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce

From: Bill Cross & Nellie deVries, Oregon Self-Insurers Association

Date: April 24, 2017

Re: Support HB 2335

The Oregon Self-Insurers Association (OSIA) is a non-profit, trade association comprised of certified self-insured and large-deductible employers as well as firms and organizations in business to provide services to the self-insured community.

OSIA **supports** HB 2335, which permits the Director of Department of Consumer and Business Services, at the request of either party to a proceeding to close workers' compensation claim, to appoint as many as three members to panel of medical arbiters in accordance with criteria the director sets by rule. Current law requires the director to appoint three medical arbiters.

Occasionally, particularly in rural areas, it is difficult to find three medical arbiters that are available to examine an injured worker. This leads to a lengthy claims process that hampers and delays closure of the claim and compensation to the injured worker. Passage of HB 2335 will help speed up the claims process and ensure that claims are closed and injured workers compensated in a timely manner.

OSIA respectfully asks for your **support** of HB 2335 to accelerate the claims process and ensure timely compensation of Oregon workers.