



February 27, 2019

To: House Committee on Business and Labor  
From: Anthony K. Smith, State Director, NFIB Oregon  
Re: Oppose HB 3022

**Chair Barker, Vice-Chairs Barreto & Bynum, and Members of the Committee,**

On behalf of Oregon's thousands of small-business members of NFIB, I would like to share with you our concerns regarding HB 3022 – and ask you to join Oregon's small businesses in opposing this legislation.

Please keep in mind that NFIB represents small businesses in every industry of Oregon's private sector, and although 90 percent of our members have fewer than 25 employees – and 70 percent have fewer than 10 employees, the small businesses we represent account for over 60,000 Oregon jobs.

HB 3022 would make substantial changes to Oregon's stable and successful workers compensation system.

It wasn't always this way, and until labor and management came together to create the Mahonia Hall reforms, the system was broken. Since then, Oregon's small businesses, and their employees, have been able to rely upon a system that is affordable for employers, that provides great benefits for workers, and above all else, focuses on safety in the workplace – and preventing workplace injuries before they occur.

Any proposed changes to our workers compensation system should be thoroughly vetted by experts representing labor and management, which is why we have MLAC in the first place.

Before the Legislature considers a 50-page bill that could drastically impact Oregon's workers comp system – one of the few systems we have in place that has made Oregon attractive for businesses and workers in safety-sensitive industries – MLAC should be provided with an opportunity to analyze this proposal and weigh in with its recommendation on how best to proceed.

Again, on behalf of the thousands of small businesses in Oregon, I ask you to oppose HB 3022.

Thank you for your consideration,

Anthony K. Smith  
NFIB Oregon State Director