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Date: January 11, 2022

TO: The Honorable Paul Holvey, Chair
The Honorable Daniel Bonham, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Dacia Grayber, Vice-Chair
House Interim Committee on Business and Labor

FROM: Dean Sidelinger, MD, State Health Officer and State Epidemiologist
Public Health Division
Oregon Health Authority

SUBJECT: Workplace COVID-19 outbreaks

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Bonham, Vice-Chair Grayber, and members of the committee: I am Dean Sidelinger, the State Health Officer and State Epidemiologist for the Oregon Health Authority. This written testimony provides information on COVID-19 outbreaks in workplaces in Oregon.

Frontline workers are people with jobs that put them at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19 because of regular close contact with others outside of their household, routine close contact with others outside of their household, and they cannot perform their job duties from home or another setting that limits the close or routine contact with others outside of their household. Frontline workers are exposed to COVID-19 every time they go to work, and although protective measures like masking and vaccination are widely available, outbreaks continue to occur in workplace settings.

Any suspected workplace outbreak is required to be reported to the local public health authority (see OAR 333-018-015). To date, Oregon has responded to over 1,600 workplace outbreaks of COVID-19 and over 1,700 outbreaks associated with schools and childcare settings. There have been 165 deaths and 31,259 cases associated with all workplace outbreaks that have been reported to date. The table below displays outbreaks by workplace industry as of November 17, 2021:

| Industry | Outbreaks as of Nov 17, 2021 |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Retail Trade | 179 |
| Other Manufacturing | 151 |
| Wholesale Trade | 109 |

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| Food & Bev Manufacturing | 105 |
| Health Care | 99 |
| Public Administration | 94 |
| Food Services & Drinking Places | 59 |
| Construction | 46 |
| Agriculture | 45 |
| Warehousing | 32 |
| Transport & Delivery | 31 |
| Admin & Support Services | 21 |
| Professional Science & Tech Services | 14 |
| Arts Entertainment & Recreation | 11 |
| Educational Services | 9 |
| Other Services | 8 |
| Social Assistance | 6 |
| Real Estate Rental & Leasing | 4 |
| Waste Management & Remediation Services | 4 |
| Forestry & Logging | 4 |
| Accommodation | 4 |
| Information | 3 |
| Utilities | 3 |
| Finance & Insurance | 2 |
| Unknown | 1 |
| Management of Companies & Enterprises | 1 |
| Mining | 1 |
| Grand Total | 1046 |

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information, and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.