



## OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters  
AFL-CIO CLC

Chair Chuck Riley  
Vice Chair Hansell  
Senate Labor and Business Committee

March 23,2021

Chair Riley and Committee,

For the record, Karl Koenig from Oregon State Fire Fighters Council. Today providing written testimony in favor on Senate Bill 802. The issue over maintaining records for 30 years allowing the filing of a rebuttable presumption claim is important from a disease management standpoint. We still are unable to predict the long-term effects of a primarily respiratory bourn illness and this Bill would accompany the recently passed Respiratory Protection Permanent Standard by Oregon OSHA.

Oregon's essential workforce kept Oregon fed, fueled and covered in the event of an emergency long before workplace engineered, and proven technologies were even proposed much less put in place.

During the COVID 19 pandemic we have experienced the best and worst Oregon has to offer in taking care of its citizenry. In workforce terms we have Workers Compensation Carriers covering their insured as if each occurrence happened in the workplace, time loss while quarantined and treated. Unfortunately the worst came out as low wage and some health care professionals saw the exact opposite. Denial of claims, poor execution of workplace rights by employers, over 80 claims of intimidation over filing claims and terminations are examples of how some employers handled the pandemic. We also know that low wage earners are where the underrepresented classes of Oregonians tend to be employed. People of color, single parent households, seasonal and temporary workers. In this age with multiple employers to make full time employment for many of Oregon's workforce this Bill seeks protection where clearly the long-term effects are unknown.

We would urge the committee's passage of SB 802 and the -1 amendments.

Respectfully

Karl Koenig  
President  
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council  
[karlk@osffc.org](mailto:karlk@osffc.org)

265 Commercial Street S.E., Suite 260 • Salem, Oregon 97301 • Phone (503) 540-0648 • Fax (503) 391-5878

**[www.osffc.org](http://www.osffc.org)**