



April 5, 2021

Senate Committee on Labor and Business
900 Court ST, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Riley and members of the Committee on Labor and Business:

We are writing to oppose the SB 801 - 1 amendment. SB 801 directed the Department of Consumer and Business Services to study issues relating to workers' compensation claims processing and report back to the legislature by September 15, 2022. The -1 amendment drastically changes the original bill and would require all self-insured employers in Oregon to contract with SAIF (State Accident Insurance Fund) to process their workers' compensation claims.

At Deschutes County, we have a long history of operating a successful self-insured workers' compensation program and using a private third-party administrator (TPA) to process claims. The TPA contract was awarded after a competitive and open RFP process. The TPA efficiently and effectively processes claims at a reasonable cost.

The - 1 amendment would force Deschutes County to use SAIF to process claims, eliminate the opportunity to shop for TPA services in the open market, and take away the ability to manage claims processing costs since these would be determined by SAIF. For these reasons, Deschutes County strongly opposes SB 801, -1 amendment.

Sincerely,

Anthony DeBone
Chair

Phil Chang
Vice Chair

Patti Adair
Commissioner

c: Senators Lynn Findley, Tim Knopp, and Dennis Linthicum
Representatives Daniel Bonham, Vikki Breese Iverson, Jason Kropf and Jack Zika