

Submitter: Donna Bleiler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure: SB1585

Directs Department of Consumer and Business Services and Oregon Health Authority to enter into intergovernmental agreement to which the authority shall disclose to the department such data related to the outbreak of COVID-19 in workplaces in this state as is necessary to enable the department to inform beneficiaries of their rights under ORS 656.204, workers compensation benefits if death is a result of accidental injury. Should COVID deaths be classified as a workplace death accident.

Oregon has worked hard to lower worker comp rates for businesses. Classifying COVID as a workplace accident will increase rates, particularly for the service industry who is still struggling to survive.

If beneficiaries need help, they should be made to apply for funds that are set aside to help them, and not make this a blanket benefit.