

Chair Taylor, Vice-chair Bonham and members of the Senate Committee On Labor and Business,

My name is Natalie Summerlin and I am an office professional at the City of Corvallis and I sustained soft tissue damage to my shoulder from an office accident years ago. I still have burning in my shoulder sometimes and still have to be careful how I move my arm.

Luckily, I only missed one day of work from that injury, but I was instructed to attend physical therapy and doctor's appointments for about six weeks afterward.

I did my best to plan all of my required appointments after work in order to protect my sick leave because I had children at home and I never knew when I would need that time to take care of them. As hard as I tried, sometimes my appointments had to be scheduled during work and that meant losing accrued sick leave to attend medical appointments for my Workers Comp injury.

It is stressful to have to set all of your appointments after work, especially since most doctors' offices are closed during evening hours. And even when I could schedule them after work, I still had to stress about getting home in time to care for my family. When I think back to that time,

I think of the stress of managing my appointments because I didn't want to have to use my sick leave was almost worse than the injury itself.

When we are hurt at work, we don't deserve the extra stress and we shouldn't have to choose between using our sick leave to get healed after a workplace injury and saving our sick leave to use for when we actually need it. Please close these loopholes.

Natalie Summerlin
City of Corvallis