

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

My name is Darin Jordan and I have worked in Public Works at the City of Salem for 28 years. I want the law around Workers Comp changed to provide paid time for mandated physical therapy and follow up doctors appointments. When I was hurt on the job I had to use hundreds of hours of my own accrued leave and it did not seem fair.

During the ice storm of 2020, the excavator I was operating fell on its side with me in the cab. It tore my rotator cuff and left distal bicep. I have had to have two surgeries so far, which caused me to miss a lot of work. In addition, I had to get an attorney to help fight my claim and I am still in hearings for my injuries two years later.

For months I wasn't able to do so many things, like help around the house or play with my dogs. These injuries affected my whole family, too. Luckily, I had very good surgeons who assured me that I could get back 80-85% of my range of motion. But, it's been a long road of healing and recovery to get there.

Three weeks or so after my injury, I found out that I would have to use my earned sick leave hours for my follow-up doctor appointments and mandated physical therapy sessions. If I hadn't been so careful about banking my sick leave in the past, I don't know what would have happened.

Workers Comp is already so frustrating and there are so many hoops to jump through that it sometimes feels like a runaround. I suffered an injury just doing the work I was assigned to do, and having to use my own sick time is even more frustrating. We need to make this system more fair to workers who just want to get mended up and go back to work.

Thank you,

Darin Jordan