



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

House Business & Labor Committee

April 24, 2023

Chair Paul Holvey
Vice Chair Lucetta Elmer
Vice Chair Nathan Sosa

Re: Testimony on SB 418A

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Sosa and Elmer, members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

For the record my name is Karl Koenig, President of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council (OSFFC) a labor organization representing over 3,700 fire fighters, paramedics, wildland, and fire prevention professionals throughout the State of Oregon.

We are in support of Senate Bill 418A. Workplace injuries are commonplace for Oregon's fire fighters. Thankfully most are minor strains and sprains that sometimes become something of significance once treatment begins. We as a profession have been champions of early return to work, treatment regimens that begin the work hardening process as soon as practical.

SB 418A modernizes the process to get treatment started and clear a path for the correct healing to occur or continue. This provision is to avoid the worker to have to choose between physician ordered treatment or report for work. Not always the easiest choice when dealing with the imbalance of making a wage and trying to heal from a workplace injury.

This bill places the injured worker not having to choose between treatment and employment. SB 418A has provisions to protect the employer from multiple claims for wage loss or being placed on temporary disability while still receiving a regular paycheck.



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Please join us in supporting this important job protection for Oregon's workers.

Regards

Karl Koenig s/s

Karl Koenig
President
Oregon State Firefighters Council