



Management-Labor Advisory Committee

Presenter: Matt West, WCD Administrator
Patrick Priest, Management Co-Chair
Scott Strickland, Labor Co-Chair



Committee composition

- 10 voting members:
 - 5 management representatives
 - 5 labor representatives
- Appointed by the governor, confirmed by the Senate
- DCBS director serves as a nonvoting ex officio member

Committee administration

- Operates under the Department of Consumer and Business Services
- Workers' Compensation Division provides staff support
- Monthly meetings, more frequent during session
- Meetings are public; agendas and minutes posted online

Committee process

- Studies workers' compensation laws and regulations
- Evaluates benefit adequacy, cost containment, and system efficiency
- Advises on programs funded by the Workers' Benefit Fund

Working with MLAC

- Guidelines for presenting legislative idea or concepts to MLAC:
<https://www.oregon.gov/DCBS/mlac/Documents/MLAC-legislation-review-guidelines.pdf>
- Stakeholders and community members can contact MLAC administrator to ask for a bill to be scheduled on the agenda
- MLAC wants to see bill language before a final vote on the bill
- If MLAC votes on bill, MLAC administrator will provide formal letter to legislative committee that bill was supported or not

Reporting and legislative interface

- Reviews all bills related to workers' compensation
- Submits formal recommendations to the Legislature
- Can be tasked by legislators to study specific areas

Decision-making framework

- Balances labor protections with business cost concerns
- Recommendations require consensus
- Political neutrality enhances MLAC's influence

MLAC values

Members of MLAC are committed to common set of values:

- Balance and fairness
- Adequacy of benefits
- Affordability
- Efficiency
- Stability and flexibility

Engagement opportunities

Legislators can:

- Request studies or briefings
- Attend public meetings and review minutes
- Contact DCBS for updates or coordination

Conclusion

Management-Labor Advisory Committee:

- Serves as effective legislative partner
- Promotes consensus-driven reform
- Strengthens Oregon's workers' compensation system

MLAC Co-Chair Scott Strickland, Labor

Members:

- Margaret Weddell, AFL-CIO
- Sarah Merrick, City of Salem Firefighters
- Lorne Bulling, Ironworkers local 29
- Emily Cronan, Oregon Nurses Association

Decision-making and perspective

MLAC Co-Chair Patrick Priest, Management

Members:

- Sara Duckwall, Duckwall Fruit
- Stacy Lewallen, Fortis Construction
- Ryan Hearn, Roseburg Forest Products
- Kim Schlessinger, Samaritan Health Services

Decision-making and perspective

Questions?

Thank you

Matt West, Workers' Compensation Division administrator

Patrick Priest, co-chair, MLAC management

Scott Strickland, co-chair, MLAC labor

Teri Watson, MLAC administrator,

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