



**TO: Management-Labor Advisory Committee
Subcommittee on Access to Care**

**FROM: Sheri Sundstrom, Director of Legislative Affairs
Oregon Self-Insurers Association**

DATE: March 6, 2013

RE: SB 533

On behalf of the Oregon Self-Insurers Association (OSIA), I would like to offer the following comments regarding SB 533.

Although OSIA remains unconvinced that a provider access problem exists in the workers' compensation system, particularly for claims enrolled in MCOs, and believes that the extension of nurse practitioner treatment authority is not necessary, we are not opposed to most of the changes proposed in this bill.

There are a few exceptions to this support. OSIA is opposed to the language expanding the dispute resolution process as proposed. We recommend deleting the new language and leaving the prior language intact. There has been no issue brought forth demonstrating the need for this change, and it would simply add the burden of additional cost and delays in treatment to the system.

In addition, with the expansion of providers included in the 'come along' provision, it may be an appropriate time to clarify what constitutes a pre-existing relationship with a provider to qualify for the 'come along'. OSIA believes that the intent is to accommodate a prior, ongoing treatment relationship with a health care provider. For instance, receiving care from a provider once five years ago does not constitute an existing relationship with a provider, and should not be included. It may be that the solution for better definition of this relationship would best be accomplished via administrative rule, and OSIA would support that position.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or comments.