

HOFFMAN CORPORATION

MLAC TESTIMONY MARCH 26, 2021

Good morning Chair Winther and Committee members,

My name is Sheri Sundstrom and I am the claims manager for Hoffman Corporation. Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

Please accept Hoffman's testimony today in support of the MLAC process and in support for all of the work you have done this last year through the pandemic and that you will continue to do addressing all areas of concerns specific to the Oregon Workers Compensation system.

At this time Hoffman does not support the Senate Bill 801 and 802 -1 amendments.

We appreciate the concerns addressed by the sponsors however, the Oregon workers compensation statute already provides for corrective action and financial penalties in cases where third party administrators for self-insured employers or carriers are not adjudicating claims per the statute whether it be an injury claim or a claim for COVID.

The current workers compensation system also allows for the filing and processing of COVID claims and resulting conditions that may arise.

Oregon was a leader in problem solving through much of the early months of COVID. MLAC's work on rules specific to COVID claims was thorough and intense. Rules became effective on October 1st that follow SAIF corporations' successful playbook in navigating and processing COVID claims.

Those rules apply to all carriers, third party administrators and self insured/administered employers.

Please note that in Oregon if a worker has an issue filing a workers compensation claim with an employer or their medical provider or has concerns with the way

their claim is being handled by the claim administrator, there are statutory opportunities for the worker to get assistance, including not only legal counsel but also help through the Ombuds Office for Injured Workers. This has not changed with COVID and applies to injuries, occupational disease and now COVID.

COVID-19 has changed all of our lives and workplaces in drastic ways. Oregon met the challenge early on through OSHA's taskforce that engaged labor, management and others to problems solve for the safest workplaces possible with the everchanging information and science of COVID.

Making drastic decisions to how the workers compensation system works in the state will have long term effects and potential unintended consequences of which others have also expressed concerns of through their testimony today.

The success of the MLAC has always been the methodical, thoughtful and collaborative process supported by the experience and knowledge of experts who educate and strategize with the MLAC in their endeavors to provide the best system for both workers and employers.

We ask that you continue to do the good work you do on this committee and we do not see the need for SB 801 or 802-1 amendments.

Thank you.



Sheri Sundstrom CRIS

Claims/Risk Management

