

AMPAH Baaba * DCBS

From: Amber McMurry <amber.mcmurry@multco.us>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 1:48 PM
To: AMPAH Baaba * DCBS
Subject: Re: public testimony 3/31/2025

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Hello,

My name is Amber McMurry and I am the Workers' Compensation Program Manager for Multnomah County. I have been a certified claims examiner for over 34 years. The first half of my career was spent as a claims adjuster and the second half on the employer side in my current role.

Regarding SB 705- A point that may not have been taken into consideration is that counties, cities and other municipalities that are required to provide workers' compensation coverage for volunteers under Search and Rescue (SAR)- required under 656.301. Additionally, those counties, cities, and other municipalities are able to, and sometimes do, elect to cover volunteers under their WC program. Examples of these could include library workers, Reserve Deputies, animal services, and more. These volunteers, although they receive no wages, currently would be paid time loss if authorized off work or if released to modified duty but none is available. The rate of compensation for volunteers is calculated based on assumed wages that are used to calculate the employer's premium.

Additionally, many volunteers may be minors, some as young as 14, that even if there were to be modified duty available would be unable to participate due to school, etc. The fact that they would receive 80% of the SAWW would increase claims costs and be overly generous compared to current time loss calculations.

Finally, even with my years of experience the 705-2 is confusing in how exactly calculations would be processed. Results of this could be a two-tiered system within wc overall as well as issues for employers who have union negotiated compensation for wc leaves. This is likely to lead to increased litigation.

Again, please note we oppose SB 705 as written including -1 , -2

Thank you.

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On Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 12:31 PM AMPAH Baaba * DCBS <baaba.ampah@dcbs.oregon.gov> wrote: