2017 Legislative Recap

**Worker Protection**

**Workers’ Memorial Scholarship Account**
Increases the Workers’ Memorial Scholarship Account, which awards scholarships to dependents or spouses of workers killed or permanently disabled on the job. [HB 2337]

**Permanent total disability benefits**
Raises minimum and maximum benefit for workers receiving a permanent total disability award. [HB 2337]

**Workers’ compensation death benefits**
Increases the allowed age of dependents of a worker who died on the job and simplifies eligibility for benefits. [HB 2338]

**New safety positions**
Nine OSHA safety and health inspectors and consultants. [SB 5512]

**Oregon OSHA penalties**
Aligns Oregon OSHA’s penalties to federal OSHAs, which results in higher maximum penalties for employers that violate safety and health laws. [SB 92]

**ConSUMER PROTECTION**

**Surprise billing**
Bans billing consumers for amounts above what health insurance pays for, when the consumer is in an in-network facility but is treated by an out-of-network medical provider. [HB 2339]

**Mortgage loan servicers and debt buyers**
Creates licensing systems for these two industries, allowing DCBS to set standards and take action to protect consumers. [SB 96, HB 2356]

**Senior financial exploitation**
Requires securities professionals to report to DCBS suspected cases of elder financial exploitation. [SB 96]

**Building Codes Division positions**
10 new positions will help the division better serve the construction industry by providing inspection services, plan review, and code development. [HB 5006]

**Reproductive health**
Requires insurers to cover specified health care services, drugs, devices, products, and procedures related to reproductive health at no cost to the consumer. [HB 3391]

**Tiny homes**
Creates construction standards for small home of 600 square feet or less. [HB 2737]

**Health INSURANCE**

**Pay parity**
Requires DCBS to study parity of insurer payments to mental health providers vs. physical health providers. [SB 860]

**Pharmacy benefit managers**
Allows DCBS to deny pharmacy benefit manager registration or renewal and take action against them for conduct. [HB 2388]

**Health care cost review**
Creates task force on health care cost review to study creating rate-setting process for hospitals. [SB 419]

**Reinsurance**
Establishes Oregon Reinsurance Program to stabilize individual health insurance rates. [HB 2391]