

Submitter: Charles Gallia

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure: HB4113

Chair and Committee Members,

Approving this bill is the right thing to do. I encourage you to support it. For nearly a decade, I served on the Multnomah County and Public Health Institutional Review Board. My role was to assess the scientific merits of health-related studies and balance those against the harm of conducting the research. These background data show higher risk rates. You've heard that.

The data are limited because they can only look retrospectively at a changing workforce and workforce environment.

Moreover, conclusively understanding the pathology, prevalence, incidents, and impacts by gender or race are not currently possible. If one waits for conclusive evidence, you may wait forever, and known inequities will persist. I strongly recommend erring on the side of caution, using prudent judgment, and support the firefighters who put their lives on the line for us every day.

Charles Gallia, PhD