

## We Support SB 592: Keeping Oregon Workers Safe Act

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### SB 592 responds to the fact that:

- Oregon OSHA is the critical body that is tasked with helping keep workers safe at work
  - Federal law requires that state protections be *at least* as effective as Federal OSHA's
- Oregon continues to rank lowest in the nation on OSHA penalties levied in the nation and has an injury and illness rate significantly higher than the national average
  - 2021 Oregon OSHA average penalty per fatality: \$1,077 VS. 2021 National average penalty per fatality: \$11,626<sup>1</sup>
- Repeated violations and deaths in the same workplace are common place
  - "Oregon Fines Construction Firm Just \$5,400 after worker death, continuing state's trend of small fines for unsafe companies... It marked the fourth time since 2017 that the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division had cited Munitor for serious safety violations" – Bend Bulletin Sept. 2022<sup>2</sup>

### Advocates worked with employer and agency stakeholders to amend SB 592 to:

1. Align Oregon OSHA penalties to Federal OSHA penalties. Increases with inflation every year
2. Trigger a comprehensive workplace investigation in the event of three or more willful or repeat violations within a year or in the event of a work related fatality where a violation caused or contributed to the fatality
3. Require at least annual reporting to the legislature on inspections, penalties & appeals



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<sup>1</sup> [https://aflcio.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/2214\\_DOTJ\\_Final\\_42622\\_nobug.pdf](https://aflcio.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/2214_DOTJ_Final_42622_nobug.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>

[https://www.bendbulletin.com/business/oregon-fines-construction-firm-just-5-400-after-worker-death-continuing-state-s-trend-of/article\\_3cc17297-de6e-50df-b161-74e0e0c761bb.html](https://www.bendbulletin.com/business/oregon-fines-construction-firm-just-5-400-after-worker-death-continuing-state-s-trend-of/article_3cc17297-de6e-50df-b161-74e0e0c761bb.html)