

We Support SB 592: Keeping Oregon Workers Safe Act

SB 592A responds to the fact that:

- Federal law requires that state protections be *at least* as effective as Federal OSHA's¹
- Oregon continues to rank 50th out of 50 states in lowest penalties assessed with only a \$50 minimum for a serious violation in statute:



- Repeated violations and deaths in the same workplace are common place

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

1. Align Oregon OSHA violation penalties to Federal OSHA penalties. Increases yearly with inflation

Researchers estimate that a 10% increase in average penalties reduces worker injuries by almost 1%. **With those estimates applied to Oregon's 43,400 workplace injuries and illnesses in 2020, SB 592 would have resulted in well over 400 workers' lives saved or injuries and illnesses avoided.**

2. Trigger a comprehensive, full 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 in connection to a violation
3. Require at least annual reporting to the legislature on inspections, penalties & appeals



¹ <https://www.osha.gov/stateplans/faqs#:~:text=OSHA%20approves%20and%20monitors%20all,as%20the%20federal%20OSHA%20program.>

² https://afcio.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/2214_DOTJ_Final_42622_nobug.pdf

³ Scholz JT, Gray WB "OSHA Enforcement and Workplace Injuries: A Behavioral Approach to Risk Assessment." *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty* 3(3), 283-305.