



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

Senate Committee on Labor and Business
Chair Kathleen Taylor
Vice Chair Daniel Bonham
2023 Oregon legislature

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham, members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Karl Koenig , President of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council. We represent the 3700 career fire fighters and paramedics throughout Oregon.

We are in support of Senate Bill 418 the Workers Compensation Bill requiring no loss of wages to attend medical appointments for on the job injuries (OJI).

We all know the benefits of early return to work, as a reminder, quicker return to full duty work status, less disassociation with work in general, less degradation of specialized skills.

Intuitively not continuing with a medical professionals recommended treatment can disqualify your claim, without a sufficient leave account a person would then have to choose to continue working or leave without pay in this scenario. What if the person was placed in “a work or be fired” for being hurt at the very job they are being treated for having an injury occur. Employees hurt on the job should not be in peril when at their most vulnerable time. The employer/employee relationship is out of balance when these situations arise, and the leave is not there to take.

SB 418 takes care of this imbalance and places the burden on the employer to finish the claim, if you will, by covering the time loss for doctor’s appointments related to a On the Job Injury.

Your fire fighters urge a Yes vote in Labor and Business Committee on Senate Bill 418!

Respectfully,

Karl Koenig
President
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council