

Chair Taylor, Vice-chair Bonham and members of the Senate Committee On Labor and Business,

My name is Michelle Bangs and I work in Behavioral Health in Benton County. I want workers to be paid for their workplace injury-related doctor and physical therapy appointments. Forcing injured workers to use their own accrued time is not fair. Please close this loophole--it is totally unfair for workers.

In 2014, I was involved in a major car crash that was not my fault while driving a work vehicle. I still have pain from those injuries and I am still limited in how I interact with my children. I am also still trying to get the second surgery I need for my neck injury. I still have to drive with special equipment in my car due to that neck injury.

While driving a work vehicle, I was T-boned by an energy drink truck at an intersection. My labrum was torn and required surgery, and at least one disc in my spine was damaged. I completed surgery and exhaustive physical therapy for my shoulder but only regained 75% range of motion. To this day, I cannot carry my young children on my left side and I can't sit on the floor and play with them due to my persistent neck injury. I was only 30 years old when this workplace accident occurred and I will have some of these limitations for the rest of my life.

It is unfair that workers in Oregon are required to use their own accrued leave to cover required medical appointments and physical therapy sessions due to a workplace injury. If we have to use all of our sick leave for treatment after workplace injuries, what will we use when we are sick?

Thank you for your time,

Michelle Bangs