

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

My name is Chris Priest and I am a Public Works employee in Salem and I sustained multiple injuries while pulling concrete on a job including tearing both rotator cuffs and a bicep. I went through surgery, physical therapy before and after surgery, MRIs, many meetings with doctors and surgeons, and a lot of pain. I also had to spend over 100 hours of my own accrued sick leave due to this workplace injury. I don't think workers should have to use any of their own sick leave when they are injured at work, but we definitely shouldn't have to use it for mandated doctors' appointments and physical therapy once we are released back to work.

We already have to jump through so many hoops to have our medical bills covered by Workers Comp, it's unfair to make us use our own sick leave time for mandated medical appointments when we are hurt at work. Having to use our own leave feels like punishment for getting hurt and that is wrong.

I've lost some use of my shoulders and a lot of my personal sick time as a result of my workplace injury, and that is a lot of stress to put on someone who was only doing their job for the community when they got hurt.

I will never get the full range of motion back in my shoulders and I will never get that 100+ hours of sick time back, but I will do what I can to make this more fair for other workers who are injured on the job.

Chris Priest
City of Salem