



## **STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SB 418**

**To: Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham, and members of the Senate Labor and Business Committee**  
**From: United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555**  
**Thursday, February 9th, 2023**

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Bonham, and members of the Senate Labor and Business Committee:

We thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 418, which would allow workers to be compensated for their time away from work to receive medical services related to a worker's compensable injury or occupational disease.

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 is the largest private sector labor union in Oregon. Our members come from a number of industries, including grocery, retail, food processing, manufacturing, and healthcare. We are a diverse group of workers who take pride in acting as a strong collective voice for working people.

For many illnesses and injuries, care does not end when a worker is cleared to return to work. Many have ongoing appointments related to their injury, which may be scheduled for weeks or months after the incident occurred. Currently, workers around the state of Oregon are expected to use personal leave, sick time, or other accrued paid time off when going to medical appointments due to an injury incurred on the job.

On top of being injured at work, these workers are now losing their accrued paid time off, and for some, losing wages because they use up their paid time off. Many workers cannot afford to miss a day of work, and choose to forgo necessary medical care. For many of our members, a day's wages could mean the difference between making rent that month, or buying groceries that week. We cannot continue to put workers in the position of rationing their healthcare for an injury that they received on the job.

All workers deserve access to the medical care necessary to continue to be healthy and safe, both on and off the job. We urge your support for SB 418.

Madison Walters,  
Political Liaison,  
UFCW Local 555

**UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS LOCAL 555**

7095 SW Sandburg Street • PO Box 23555 Tigard, Oregon 97281-3555 • Office: 503-684-2822 • Fax: 503-620-3816 • [ufcw555.org](http://ufcw555.org)

