



February 27, 2023

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

FR: Katie Koenig, Oregon Business & Industry

RE: Oregon Business and Industry's Opposition of SB 491

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Katie Koenig, Public Affairs Manager for Oregon Business & Industry (OBI).

OBI is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 491. While OBI supports the intent of expanding access to fertility treatment coverage, we are concerned that without any cost containment measures, the benefits this bill mandates will be incredibly costly to businesses to provide and will limit their ability to provide other benefits and incentives.

It has been estimated that this benefit mandate will increase premiums around \$5.00 per member, per month. This increase in costs of coverage will be particularly difficult on small businesses who will likely have to pass along the increase to their employees or be forced to reduce employee benefits in other areas. This comes at a time when businesses in Oregon, particularly small businesses, are feeling the financial pressures stemming from increased tax burdens, workforce shortages and substantial rising costs from inflation and other macro-economic factors.

We have concerns with the bill as drafted and appreciate the opportunity to provide comments.

Contact: Katie Koenig, OBI, katiekoenig@oregonbusinessindustry.com