



Andrea Meyer, Director of Government Relations

**Testimony in support of HB 3242**

House Committee on Business & Labor

March 1, 2023

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With over 500,000 members in Oregon, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families, with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. This includes educating and protecting older Oregonians against fraud and supporting legislation that advances important consumer protections.

AARP supports HB 3242. Insurance is an essential financial product intended to protect people and their property against significant financial loss. Yet unfair insurance industry practices can lead to consumer harm.

Oregon law already provides a long list of unfair claim settlement practices that insurers are prohibited from doing. Those are set forth Section 1 which is current law (ORS 746.230). These provisions play an important role in safeguarding consumers against fraud, deception and unfair practices. However, absent the ability to seek meaningful redress in the courts, consumers are not truly protected from violations of ORS 746.230.

AARP strongly supports laws that allow consumers direct access to the courts and that includes a private right of action. HB 2342 does just that by adding a private right of action to our unfair claim settlement law. It allows a jury to determine the merits of a claim and when appropriate provide meaningful legal recovery. AARP urges this committee to pass HB 3242.