

## International Workers' Compensation Foundation, Inc.

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March 21, 2023

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To: House Ways and Means  
From: Eric Oxfeld, Executive Director   
International Workers' Compensation Foundation  
Re: H.B. 5010

To the Oregon State Ways & Means Committee:

The International Workers' Compensation Foundation (IWCF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to workers' compensation education and outreach. We work exclusively in cooperation with state workers' compensation administrative agencies such as the Oregon Workers' Compensation Division to facilitate holding educational conferences that are designed to improve the delivery of workers' compensation benefits and bring senior agency executives and adjudicators together with all stakeholders for informal dialog. The agendas and presenters are selected to reflect the regulator's perspective rather than the parochial interests of any specific interest group such as attorneys, workers, employers, insurance carriers, and providers of medical and other services – in short, anyone who has a professional interest in and responsibility for the state workers' compensation program.

In support for HB 5010, I would like to share about the Oregon Workers' Compensation Division and their commitment to outreach and education. IWCF has been a partner with Oregon WCD in promoting workers' compensation education in Oregon for more than 2 decades. The Division's leadership has long understood how advantageous it is for agency staff and system participants to get acquainted outside an adversarial setting, which reduces misunderstandings and facilitates positive interactions when they meet in claims related proceedings. In addition, the training focuses on reporting procedures, which results in greater compliance. These effects directly improve outcomes for injured workers and employers. Oregon WCD has been peerless in selecting topics of the greatest importance to the state's workers' compensation community and deploying experts from the agency staff and outside specialists to present broad, unbiased, authoritative direction. The perceived value of the Division's work on the Conference is indicated by the experienced attendees who return every year as well as newcomers who need to get up to speed quickly.