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April 18, 2023

Senate Judiciary Committee  
Oregon State Capital  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Prozanski and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HB3242 and HB3243: Regarding Insurance Regulations. On behalf of the 470 members of the McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce, representing over 10,000 employees in 25 cities across Oregon, we oppose House Bills 3242 and 3243 and have concerns about how these bills, if passed, will impact consumers, Oregon small businesses and the insurance industry.

HB3242 and HB3243 will negatively impact the business community, making insurance rates skyrocket, increasing litigation and further bottleneck an already struggling court system. Additionally, provisions within the bill would allow for lawsuits against individual insurance agents. Many of our members in the insurance industry are small local agents that would likely not recover from a lawsuit if this bill passed.

In other states, insurance rates and lawsuits increased significantly once similar legislation passed, resulting in higher insurance rates for consumers. In addition, lawsuits became harder to resolve, increased investigation and litigation costs, and encouraged frivolous claims.

Oregon currently has a strong system for consumers to file a lawsuit or complaint with the state's insurance commissioner. Additionally, Oregon's insurance division can order an insurer to pay claims, require restitution, and levy fines for not meeting state requirements, particularly those insurers that act in bad faith.

Our business community is just beginning to recover from a three-year pandemic, families and businesses are struggling with high inflation and supply chain issues. Raising insurance rates for families and small businesses could not come at a worse time.

**Please vote NO on these bills and oppose an increase in insurance rates for our small businesses, their employees, and Oregon families.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gioia Goodrum'.

Gioia Goodrum  
President/CEO  
McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce