

January 23, 2025

Attn: Charity Steffen  
Employment Services Team Manager  
Workers' Compensation Division

Dear Charity Steffen:

I am writing this letter in support of SB 5511.

I have worked the past 10 years as a vocational rehabilitation counselor providing services to injured workers in Oregon. My current role at Genex is a certified rehabilitation counselor and vocational supervisor. I assist injured workers in Oregon to return successfully to work after an industrial injury. I could not do this without the assistance of the employment service team at the workers compensation division department of consumer and business services. The funding for this program is important to me and to injured workers in Oregon in the following ways.

The vocational reviewers assist in balancing the scales to ensure the laws and rules of Oregon are followed by all parties. These reviewers are experts in administrative rules and help bring needed services to Oregonians including vocational retraining benefits and overall appropriate care to which they are entitled. The reviewers also provide training and education to adjusters and vocational counselors in the administrative rules which results in Oregonians receiving the services needed to successfully return to work after an injury.

The preferred worker program team of consultants help employers and injured workers take advantage of various stay at work benefits. These benefits such as worksite modifications, wage subsidy, ergonomic equipment, tools and clothing all help Oregonians return to work by helping overcome basic challenges in returning to work. My role as a vocational counselor is to help assist the preferred worker team to educate employers and workers about these programs so they can be utilized to their fullest potential.

A few examples of how these programs help:

1. A cabinet maker who lost a finger essential to his job task of lifting pieces of wood and operating saws and other machinery was assisted to return to work by the preferred worker program worksite modification funds to help the employer purchase lift tables and equipment to help this worker return to work full time modifying tasks, so his lack of a finger was no longer a barrier to employment. He continues to work full time as a cabinet maker at a higher wage.
2. A landscaper worker was successful when his employer created a job for him using worksite creation funds to train the worker to be a cost estimator and crew supervisor paying for schooling to learn cost estimating, ipad to create bids and a lift gate for the truck allowing the worker to load heavy items into the truck.
3. A barista was able to return to work when the worksite modification program assisted the employer to automate the stock room removing the responsibility of lifting by automating the shelving and stocking system.

If I can be of further assistance to support SB 5511 or add my support to the services provided by this agency I can be reached at 503-476-4797 or [paul.see@genexservices.com](mailto:paul.see@genexservices.com).



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul See".

Paul See, MBA, MA, CRC  
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