

Submitter: Melisa Runyan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB174

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Strongly Oppose SB 174

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lisa Runyan, and I am the Owner of Pacific Rim Insurance. I urge you to oppose

Senate Bill 174.

It is my duty to seek out the best solutions for my clients to ensure they are protected and get

the best value for their hard-earned dollars. I take this obligation seriously. Insurance is

something you don't fully appreciate until you need it, and only if I have done my job well will my

customers have that safety net when they need it most.

SB 174 would make resolving insurance claims more difficult by increasing the number of

lawsuits, delaying claim payouts, and driving up costs. It seeks to move our insurance market

away from the current consumer-focused approach and instead rewards costly litigation. That

would be a bad move for Oregon consumers and the state as a whole.

Right now, Oregon's insurance market works well for consumers. Our state has strong

protections in place—policyholders can file complaints with the Department of Consumer and

Business Services (DCBS), which has the authority to investigate and require insurers to pay

claims when warranted. Oregon's existing framework keeps insurance rates stable and ensures

fairness. A recent study by Milliman found that legislation like SB 174 could increase premiums

by 7% to 16%, costing Oregon consumers up to \$1.4 billion. Other states that have enacted

similar policies, such as California and Washington, have seen dramatic increases in insurance

premiums—California's bodily injury insurance rates rose by 32-53% before bad faith

lawsuits

were repealed.

Now is not the time to add unnecessary costs to Oregonians who are already struggling with

rising prices for food, housing, and other essentials. SB 174 will only increase financial burdens

by making insurance more expensive and harder to access. I urge you to oppose Senate Bill

174 and protect Oregon's stable insurance market.

Lisa Runyan

Pacific Rim Insurance