

Submitter: Caleb 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 Caleb Runyan, and I am one of the Owner's 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in insurance premiums—California's bodily injury insurance rates rose by 32-53% before bad faith lawsuits were repealed.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.

Caleb Runyan
Pacific Rim Agency