



**CONSUMER
ALLIANCE**
of Oregon

March 5, 2025

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

Re: Support for SB 174

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

The Consumer Alliance of Oregon urges your support of **SB 174, Strengthening Consumer Protections in Oregon's Insurance Industry**. The bill aims to close a critical gap in consumer protection, ensuring that insurance companies are held to the same ethical standards as other businesses in Oregon.

The Consumer Alliance of Oregon, composed of community-based organizations, nonprofits, subject matter experts, and national advocacy groups, **works to champion the rights and interests of Oregon consumers**. Our coalition prioritizes the needs of communities most harmed by predatory financial practices, including communities of color, low-income families, and older Oregonians.

Insurance is an essential and often required service that consumers rely on to safeguard their homes and vehicles, provide financial security for their loved ones in the event of an unexpected passing, and ensure access to long-term care in case of a serious injury from significant unforeseen costs. **When we invest in insurance, we expect companies to uphold their commitments during times of crisis or hardship.**

Oregon's insurance industry is currently the only major industry not covered by Oregon's Unlawful Trade Practices Act (UTPA). The insurance industry should be held to the same standards of accountability and transparency as other industries, and Oregon consumers should have the same protections and avenues for recourse when dealing with all industries. As it stands, consumers harmed by fraudulent or

unethical insurance practices have limited protections when dealing with bad actors in the industry.

When Oregonians spend their hard-earned money on a car, home, and other types of insurance, **they should be able to feel confident that insurance companies will hold up their end of the bargain.** And they should have recourse when insurance companies fail to honor their agreements.

We urge your support of SB 174 to protect Oregonians from fraudulent and unethical insurance practices. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Members of the Consumer Alliance of Oregon

Bienestar	Disability Rights Oregon	Oregon Health Equity Alliance
Centro Cultural	Leukemia & Lymphoma Society	OSPIRG
DevNW	Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon	Reimagine Oregon
Latino Community Association	NAYA Action Fund	Suma
Oregon Consumer Justice	Oregon Consumer League	Oregon Food Bank