

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 Ruby Olson, and I am an insurance professional that works with SafeCo Insurance. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 174. As someone who works directly with policyholders every day, I see firsthand how important it is to keep insurance accessible and affordable for Oregonians. Unfortunately, SB 174 threatens to do just the opposite.

Oregon already has a robust system in place to protect consumers. Suppose a policyholder has concerns about their claim. In that case, they can already file a complaint with the Department of Consumer and Business Services, which has the authority to investigate and require insurers to pay claims when warranted. SB 174 is unnecessary and will add another layer of costly and time-consuming litigation that will ultimately drive up consumer premiums.

I have worked with countless families and businesses to ensure they have the coverage they need in times of crisis. Harsh weather and wildfire can already make life harder for our consumers. If SB 174 is passed, cases where people are in real crisis could be caught up in unnecessary legal battles, delaying payments and making it harder for policyholders to recover after a loss.

Other states that have enacted similar legislation have seen significant insurance premium hikes. A study by Milliman found that policies like SB 174 have led to premium increases of 7% to 16%, costing consumers up to \$1.4 billion. In California, where bad faith lawsuits were allowed, litigation costs skyrocketed, increasing bodily injury insurance premiums by as much as 53% before the law was repealed. Oregon should not follow this harmful path.

In addition to harming individual policyholders, SB 174 will negatively impact key industries that rely on affordable insurance, including housing, child care, and renewable energy. Higher insurance costs will make it more expensive to build and maintain affordable housing, force child care providers to raise rates, and put renewable energy projects at risk. Oregon cannot afford these consequences.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose Senate Bill 174. This bill will not help consumers—it will only lead to higher costs, increased litigation, and delays in claim resolutions. Oregon needs policies that protect affordability and accessibility, not legislation that disrupts a functioning system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruby Olson