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Labor and Workplace Standards Committee

RE: Opposition to House Bill 3374

Dear Committee Members,

I wish to express my strong opposition to SAIF's attempt to reorganize into a "Managed Care Organization (MCO)."

The primary goal of an MCO is to:

1. **Improve the quality of care.**
2. **Control costs**

SAIF's proposed "closed panel" MCO will not improve the quality of care.

- In fact, **continuing to limit** the number of physicians and **PHYSICIAN TYPES** who can treat injured workers **on its MCO panel** will have the opposite effect.
Continued closed paneled MCOs will further **discriminate** against injured workers in Oregon.

SAIF has not established a need to control costs by further limiting care to injured workers.

- Oregon already ranks a low **22nd in average W/C costs** per state (out of 50 states plus District of Columbia). Yet, Oregon is only **25th in benefits paid out**, only **37th in cash benefits paid out** and only **32nd in total benefits paid out!** Oregon already has one of the "least expensive/most profitable" work comp systems in the U.S.

Don't further discriminate against injured Oregon workers. **Vote no on HB 3374**

Robert M. Richards, D.C.