

Submitter: Jennifer Talbert
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Labor and Workplace Standards
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3374

Written Testimony Opposing HB 3374
April 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong opposition to House Bill 3374 and its -2 amendments.

I am a licensed chiropractic physician practicing in Oregon. I provide evidence-based care to patients experiencing musculoskeletal injuries, including some who are injured on the job and rely on the workers' compensation system for timely, effective treatment. I write today out of deep concern that HB 3374 would severely limit access to care, increase administrative burdens, and further marginalize chiropractic physicians within Oregon's workers' compensation framework.

HB 3374 would allow SAIF Corp to establish its own Managed Care Organization, which opens the door to closed networks and onerous pre-authorization portals. In my experience, SAIF already places significant administrative roadblocks between injured workers and the care they need—delaying treatment, rejecting clinical recommendations, and making it more difficult for providers to remain in network. These changes would worsen that trend and undermine patient recovery.

Moreover, the bill's -2 amendments grant attending physician status to physician assistants and nurse practitioners, while denying that same status to chiropractic physicians, despite our advanced training in diagnosing and treating work-related spinal and musculoskeletal injuries. Chiropractic physicians are licensed primary contact providers in Oregon, and we are often the first to evaluate and treat injured workers. Excluding us from attending physician status undercuts patient choice, fragments care, and ignores the role we already play in successful return-to-work outcomes.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 3374. Our workers' compensation system should be focused on removing barriers, not creating new ones. This bill would allow a single corporation to narrow access, expand control over clinical decisions, and diminish the status of qualified physicians who are vital to the care of injured Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Talbert, DC
Chiropractic Physician
Portland, Oregon