



# Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.

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Good afternoon Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Diehl and Nelson, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Amanda Sullivan-Astor, and I am here on behalf of Associated Oregon Loggers. We represent nearly 900 small, family-owned forest contractors and logging businesses across Oregon. We also help provide workers' compensation coverage through AOL Services in partnership with SAIF Corporation.

Safety is central to our mission. More than half of our 15-person staff are registered workers' compensation agents, providing safety consultations, field audits, and guided safety meetings to reduce injuries and strengthen safety culture. Logging is remote, physically demanding, and inherently high-risk work. Over the last 50 years, our industry has made real progress, and we want the workers' compensation system to keep pace with what actually helps injured workers recover and return to work.

Today, I am testifying in support of Sections 49–65 of HB 4040, which improve access to care by allowing physician associates (PA) and nurse practitioners (NP) to appropriately serve as attending physicians in workers' compensation cases.

In rural Oregon, access to doctors and physicians is limited. When the system restricts who can function as an attending physician, injured workers face longer waits, fewer local options, and more travel. Those delays slow treatment, slow return-to-work options, and increase time-loss. That is hard on families, hard on small businesses trying to keep crews running, and it increases claim costs across the system.

The reality is that many rural workers already rely on an NP or PA as their primary care provider. These clinicians live in the community, know the patient, understand the work, and are often the most practical path to timely, consistent care for the full life of a claim.

Retaining Sections 49–65 is a common-sense workforce and public safety improvement: it keeps care local, reduces delays, supports faster and safer return to work, and helps the workers' compensation system function better for rural employers and injured workers alike.

Thank you, and we respectfully ask you to retain Sections 49–65 in HB 4040 as is.

*For more information please contact:*

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