

OREGON  
BUSINESS  
& INDUSTRY



**Paloma Sparks, Vice President**

**Testimony to House Business & Labor Committee**

Workers' Compensation

May 27, 2020

# Workers' Compensation

# Background

- Purpose of Workers' Comp is to help employees recover from *on the job* acquired injuries or illnesses
- It is intended to help workers with lost wages and medical treatment due to work-related injuries or illnesses
- The goal is to help employees recover and return to work

# Workers' Comp and COVID-19

- Workers can file claims now
- May be compensable – must be work related
- Information from SAIF
- Employees file, time loss, investigation, claim determination

# Concerns with Guarantee Proposal

- This is functionally a guarantee of workers' comp coverage
- Governor Brown did not define “essential” industries or employees
- We first saw this proposal just a few days ago
- The system is working right now as intended
- This is a national health crisis – this proposal seems to require employers to shoulder the bulk of the burden

# Questions?

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