



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

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### **Oregon House Votes to Protect Injured Workers**

*House Bill 4138 will protect benefits for people too injured to return to work*

**SALEM, Ore.** -Today, the Oregon House of Representatives unanimously voted to approve House Bill 4138, which will close a loophole the insurance industry has used for years to surprise workers with benefit reductions when they are deemed too disabled to return to their old job.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Dacia Grayber (D-Tigard), also requires insurance companies to notify workers in writing when their benefits are being reduced and why.

Further, HB 4138 equalizes the amount of time workers and insurers have to fix errors in benefit payments. Under current law, workers can only go back two weeks to make corrections or adjustments, while insurers can go back an unlimited amount of time. During a committee hearing on the bill, testimony was provided by a worker who had benefits reduced four years after an error by the insurance company.

“Imagine the trauma of being hurt so badly on the job that you can never return to work,” says Rep. Grayber. “Then imagine navigating the medical system and the insurance system while you are struggling to get better and to make ends meet for your family. These workers were being re-traumatized by surprise reductions in benefits. These workers got a measure of justice today.”

The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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