## **Advocating for Oregon Workers**

DCBS Mission: "Protect and serve Oregon's consumers and workers while promoting a positive business environment."

Presenter: Barbra Anderson Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers



**Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers** 

# History

#### 1987

 Legislative reform to Oregon's workers' compensation system

### 2021

• Workplace safety and health

### Independent advocates for workers

- Worker rights and responsibilities
- Time-loss benefits
- Medical benefits
- Litigation and settlement processes
- Safety and health complaints
- Fatality benefits

#### **Common Issues**

- How do I file a claim?
- My family member passed away at work, what can I do?
- What are my benefits? When? How?
- The insurer is not responding.
- I want a new doctor.
- Do I need a lawyer?
- My claim was denied, what can I do?

### How can we help?

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- Empathize
- Listen
- Support
- Forms
- Mediate

#### **2023 Statistics**

- 7,300 total inquiries resulting in over 12,400 contacts
- 86 percent of inquiries resolved within 2 days
- 15 percent of inquiries from non-English speakers
- Reviewed 611 settlements totaling \$15,530,378, with unrepresented workers

# Active participants

- Workers' Compensation advisory meetings
- Management-Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC)
- Medical Advisory Committee
- Oregon OSHA partnership/advisory meetings
- Governors' Agricultural Labor Housing Task Force

## **Contact us**

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