

JUSTICE FOR INJURED WORKERS

LC 2160 helps injured workers whose employers break the law by failing to provide WC insurance. Under current law, injured workers can collect benefits (medical bills and lost wages) only after the state completes the investigation into the violation by the employer. This could take months. LC 2160 allows workers to collect benefits at the beginning of the investigation. LC 2160 does not increase benefits – it simply speeds up payments.

LC 2375 helps workers who are seeking job re-training. These workers often if not always have a permanent disability from their workplace injury. As a result, they are due a lump sum payment for the permanent limp, loss of limb, loss of vision, etc. Under current law, they can only receive that payment after they either complete or drop out of job re-training. So if the worker is in job re-training and faces a financial crisis, they often drop out in order to get the money they need to stave off creditors. All LC 2375 does is allow workers to elect to stay in job re-training and get that lump sum payment. LC 2375 does not increase benefits – it simply speeds up payments.

LC 2272 allows workers to be fully compensated for the cost of medical records, doctors' reports, and other expenses when the worker prevails in a dispute over a claim. Right now, they are often only partially compensated. If the worker does not prevail, workers or their attorneys are not compensated for the cost of the expert. This levels the playing field with the insurance industry that can afford to retain a stable of experts to argue for the denial of claims.

For more information, contact Oregon Trial Lawyers Association Cassie Purdy cassie@oregontriallawyers.org 619-569-4284 ; Arthur Towers, arthur@oregontriallawyers.org 503-799-1017