From:	Ron Bowman
To:	ROGERS Marie A * DCBS
Cc:	KUNZ Juerg * DCBS
Subject:	Rulemaking Advisory Committee
Date:	Tuesday, November 3, 2026 8:26:12 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

Marie thank you for organizing the Rulemaking Advisory Committee today and inviting me to attend. I've made a summary of my support for the 5% increase payments for providers rule under consideration. Please feel free to publish this for the record:

Dear Rulemaking Advisory Committee Members,

As a practicing orthopedic surgeon and longtime Chair of the Medical Advisory Committee, I would like to express my support for the proposed 5% across-the-board increase in medical provider reimbursement. My comments reflect not only my own experience but also the concerns and perspectives of medical providers who participate in Oregon's workers' compensation system. Timely access to quality medical care for injured workers has been a longstanding concern within Oregon's workers' compensation system. The administrative requirements associated with treating workers' compensation patients are often substantially more burdensome than those associated with other forms of insurance, particularly for smaller medical practices. These additional responsibilities require increased staffing, consume valuable provider and administrative time, and directly affect the financial viability of participating practices. Over the years, the Medical Advisory Committee has devoted countless hours to addressing these administrative burdens and the associated "hassle factors" that discourage provider participation. Unfortunately, once a medical practice decides to stop accepting workers' compensation patients, it is often difficult to persuade that practice to return to the system. A meaningful increase in reimbursement has been overdue for some time, particularly in light of rising personnel and operating costs. Although increased reimbursement alone will not resolve the administrative challenges, it represents a reasonable and necessary step toward retaining existing providers, encouraging additional practices to participate, and improving timely access to appropriate medical care for injured workers. The long-term health of the workers' compensation system depends upon maintaining an adequate network of willing and qualified healthcare providers. **I therefore strongly support implementing the proposed 5% increase in provider reimbursement now, followed by consideration of a mechanism for predictable annual adjustments tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or another appropriate measure of healthcare operating costs.** Such an approach would help preserve provider participation and reduce the need for periodic, larger reimbursement adjustments in the future.

Respectfully,

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