



Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Inc.

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April 9, 2018

Via Email

The Honorable Tracy Kraft-Tharp
 Chair
 Business Affairs and Labor Committee
 Colorado General Assembly

The Honorable Faith Winter
 Vice Chair
 Business Affairs and Labor Committee
 Colorado General Assembly

Dear Chair Kraft-Tharp and Vice Chair Winter:

The purpose of this letter is to convey the support of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) for SB 178, legislation that would ensure occupational accident (Occ-Acc) insurance coverage is available to independent truckers in Colorado.

OOIDA is the largest trade association representing the views of small-business truckers and professional truck drivers. We have more than 160,000 members nationwide, including roughly 2,475 who reside in Colorado. An overwhelming majority of our members are considered independent contractors.

We recently surveyed our Colorado members to ask one question: Should OOIDA work with Colorado lawmakers to preserve Occ-Acc insurance coverage as an optional alternative to workers' compensation for owner-operators? The answer was a resounding yes.

According to our members, Occ-Acc is a preferred alternative to workers' compensation because it's generally more affordable, provides unique benefits, and includes coverage for non-work-related accidents. Conversely, workers' compensation is often times too expensive and doesn't reflect the needs of the person being covered.

Trucking is an extremely diverse industry. One-size-fits-all seldom ever fits in trucking. Truckers need options, including options that determine what they'll be covered for in the event of an accident. In short, our members like Occ-Acc insurance coverage and it should be preserved as a legal alternative to workers' compensation.

Thank you for considering the concerns of small-business truckers. Please contact me directly at (816) 229-5791 ext. 1603 or mike_matousek@ooida.com should you have any questions or require additional information.

Respectfully,

Mike Matousek
 Director of Government Affairs, OOIDA